



**GAZETTEER OF INDIA  
UTTAR PRADESH**

**DISTRICT KHERI**

# **UTTAR PRADESH DISTRICT GAZETTEERS**



**KHERI**

सत्यमेव जयते

**OM PRAKASH**  
**State Editor**

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## PREFACE

This is the thirty-sixth in the series of revised Gazetteers of the districts of Uttar Pradesh which are being published under a scheme jointly sponsored and financed by the Union and the State Governments. The first official document relating to the area covered by the Kheri district was published in 1877 in the Mc Minn's *A Gazetteer of the Province of Oudh*, Vol. II, and after which came *The Monumental Antiquities and Inscriptions in the North-Western Provinces and Oudh*, (Lucknow, 1891) by A. Fuhrer. In 1905 an account of the district appeared in the *Imperial Gazetteer*, United Provinces (Lucknow Division) and in 1905 was published H.R. Nevill's *Kheri : A Gazetteer* which was supplemented by Volumes B, C and D in 1915, 1926 and 1934 respectively. The different sources utilized in the preparation of the present gazetteer have been indicated in the bibliography which appears at the end of the book.

I should like to place on record my sincere thanks to the Chairman and members of the State Advisory Board, Dr. P. N. Chopra, Editor, Indian Gazetteers, Central Gazetteers Unit, Ministry of Education and Social Welfare, Government of India, New Delhi and to all those officials and non-officials who have helped in bringing out this Gazetteer.

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OM PRAKASH

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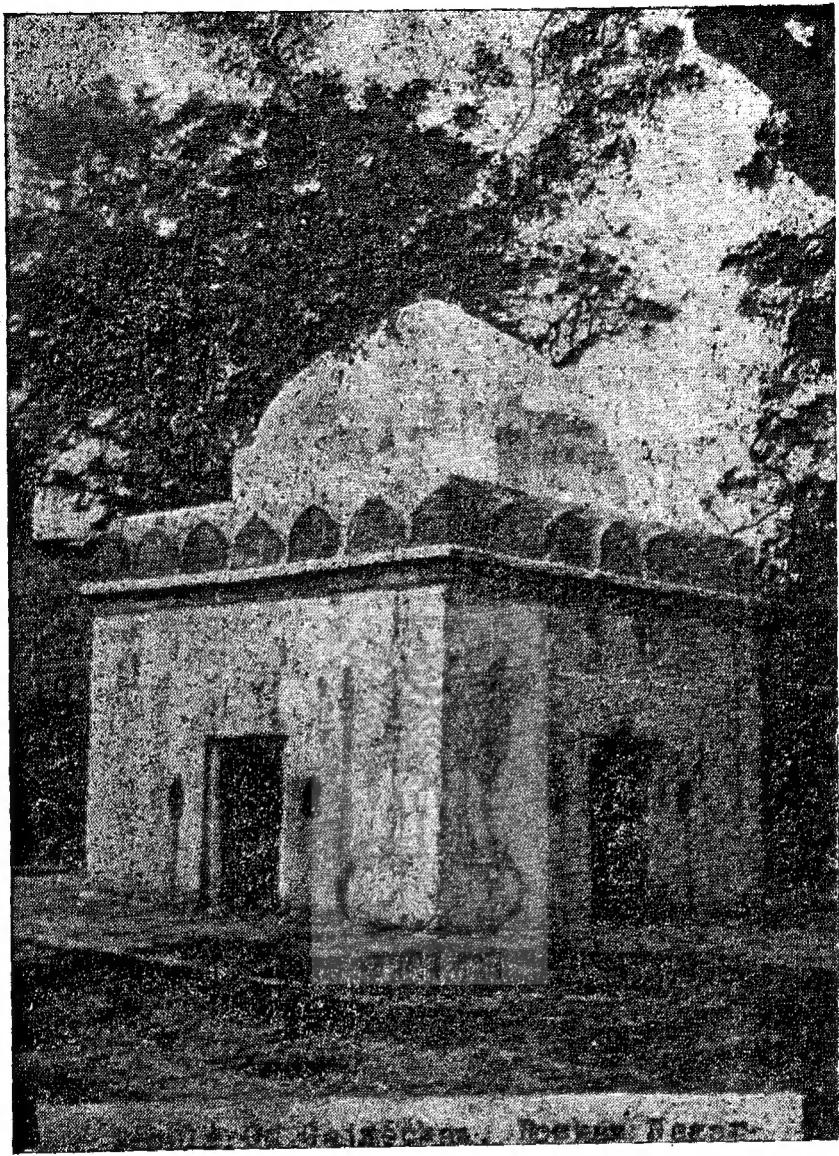
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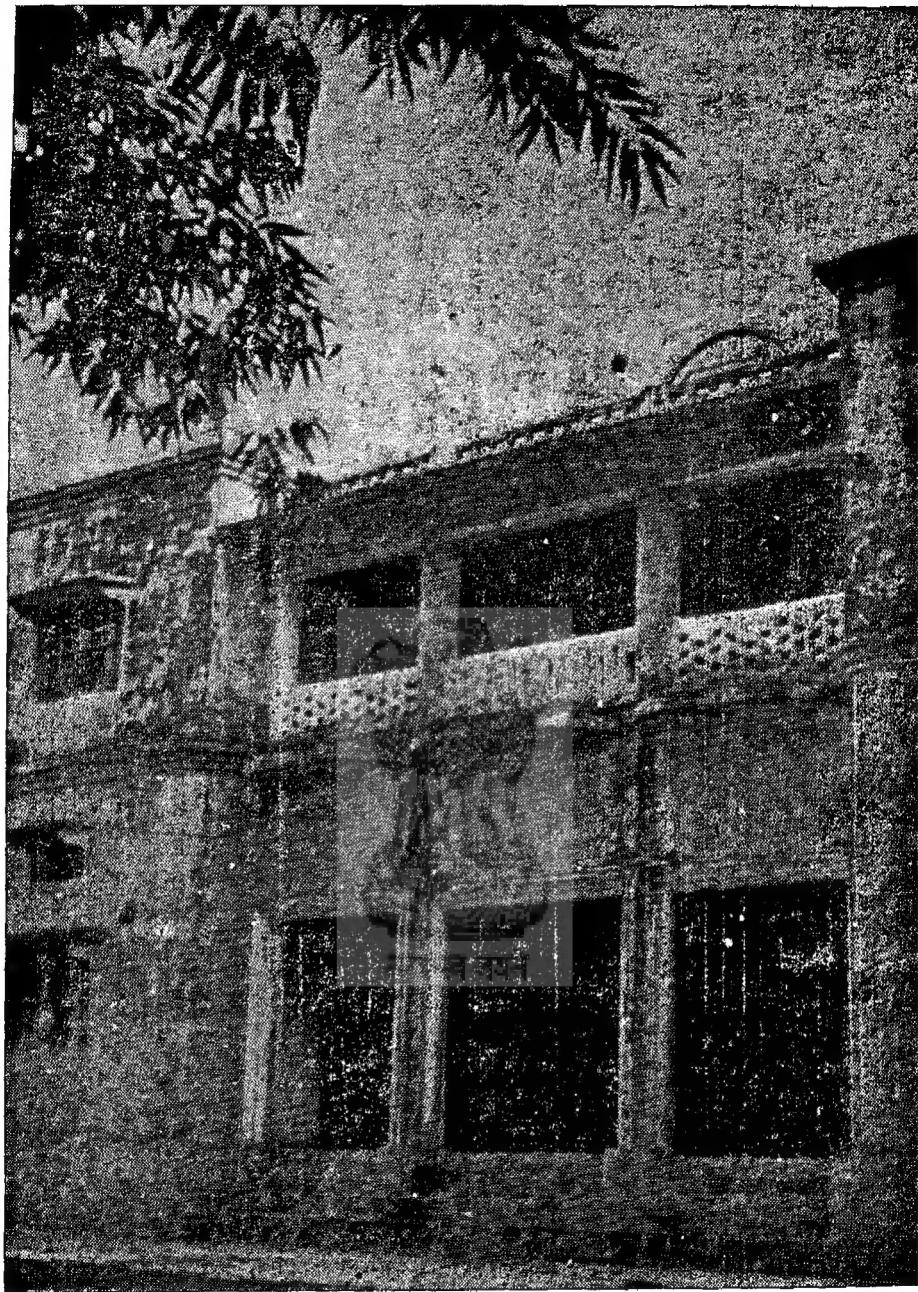
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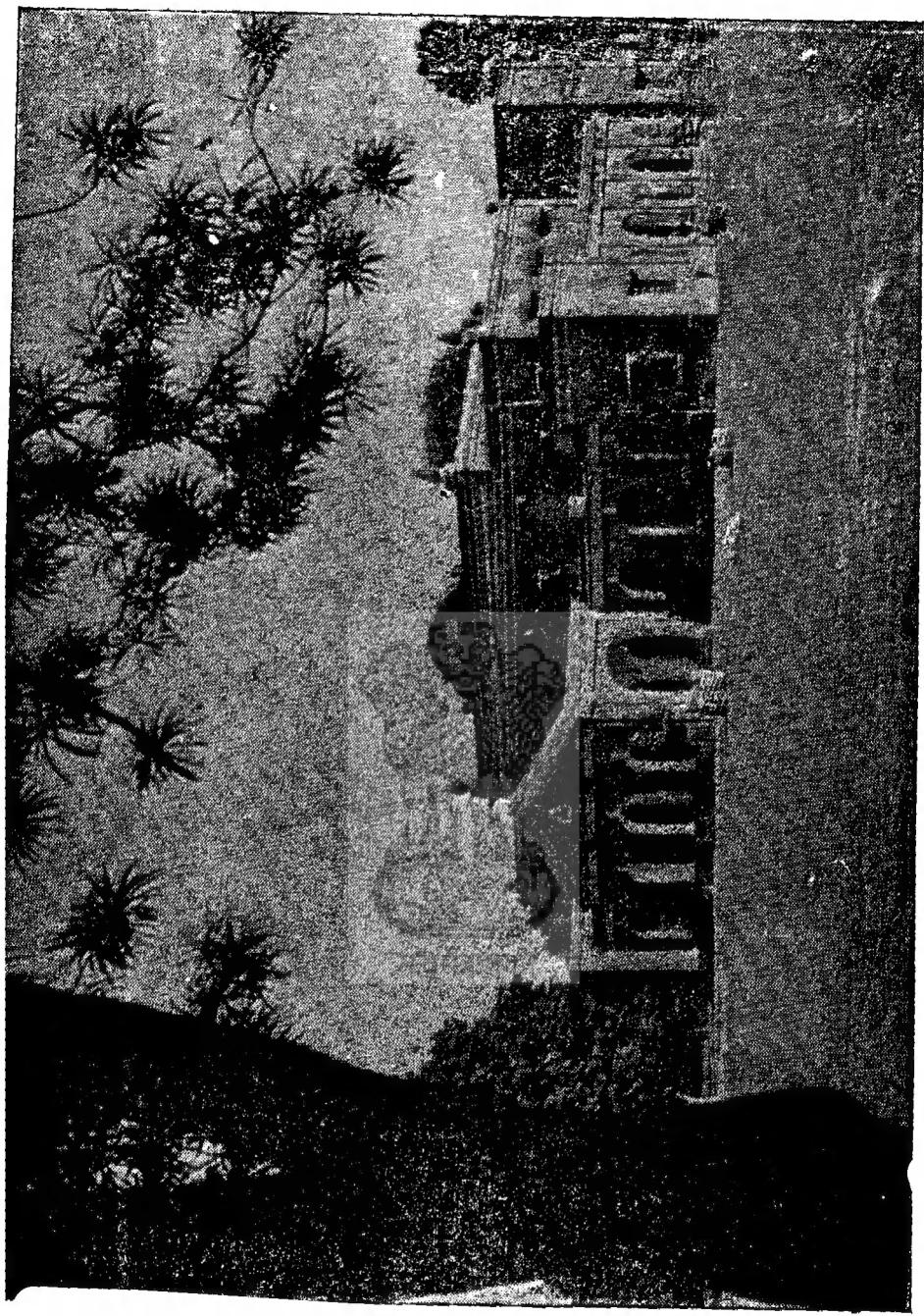
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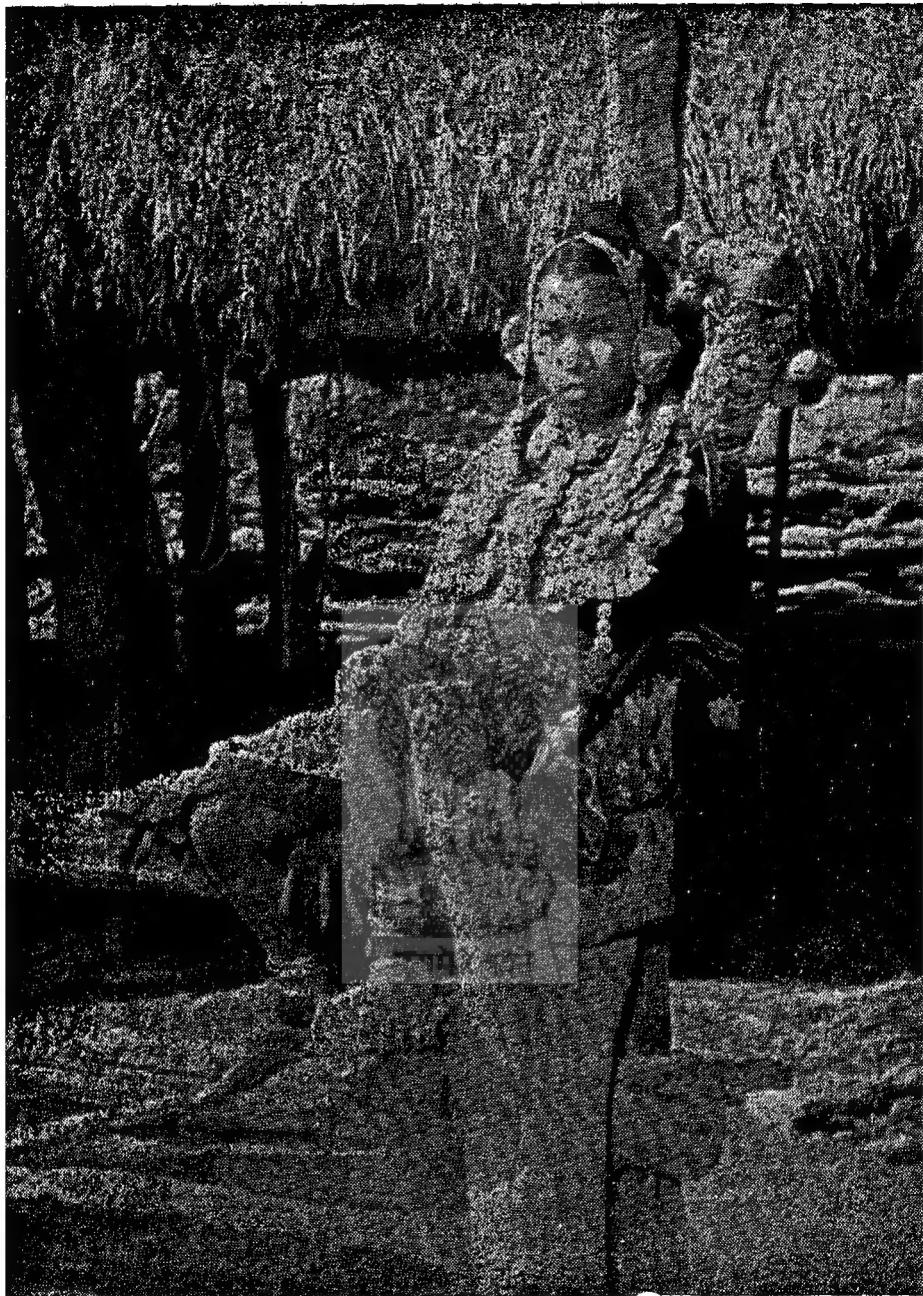
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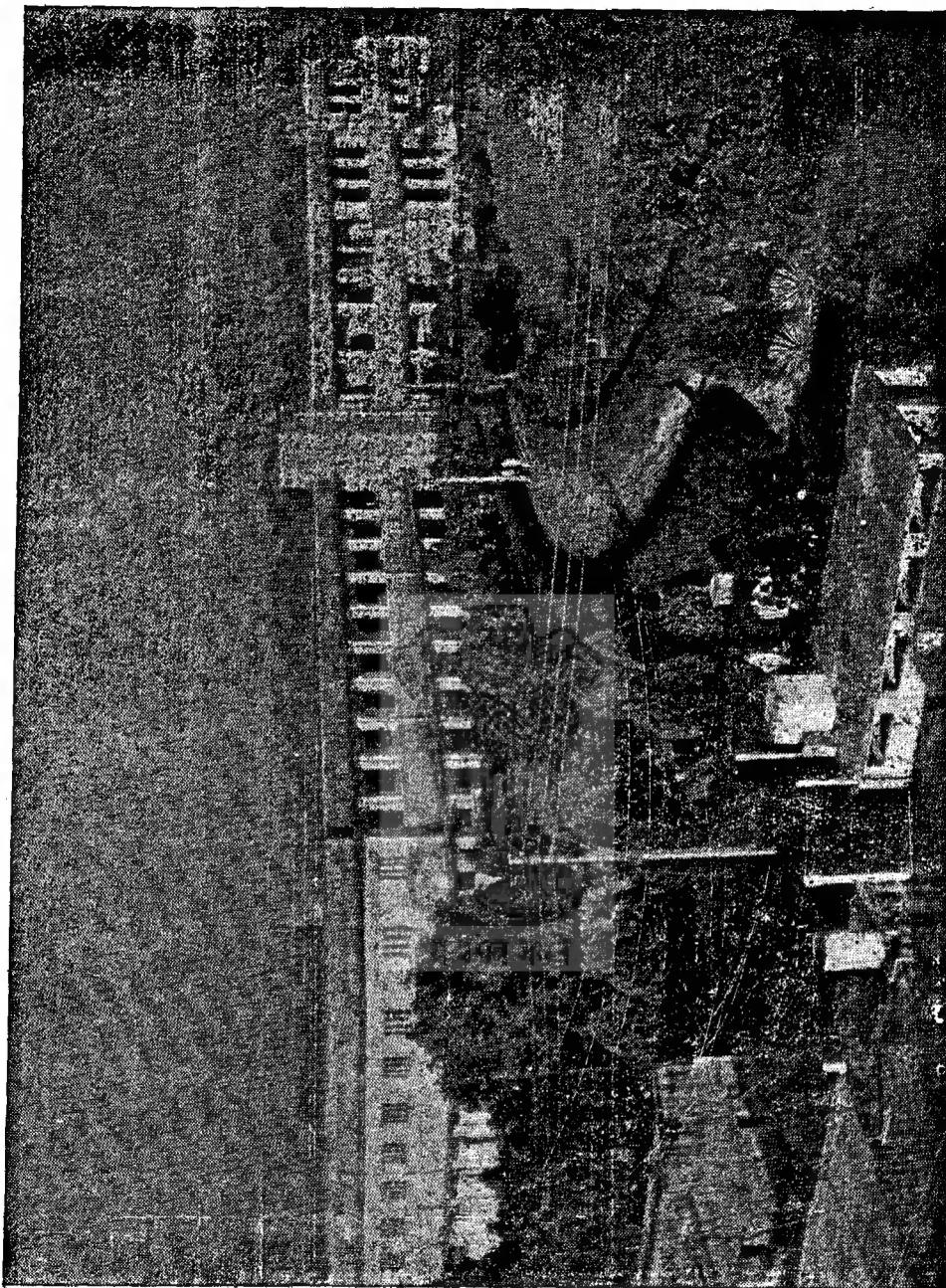
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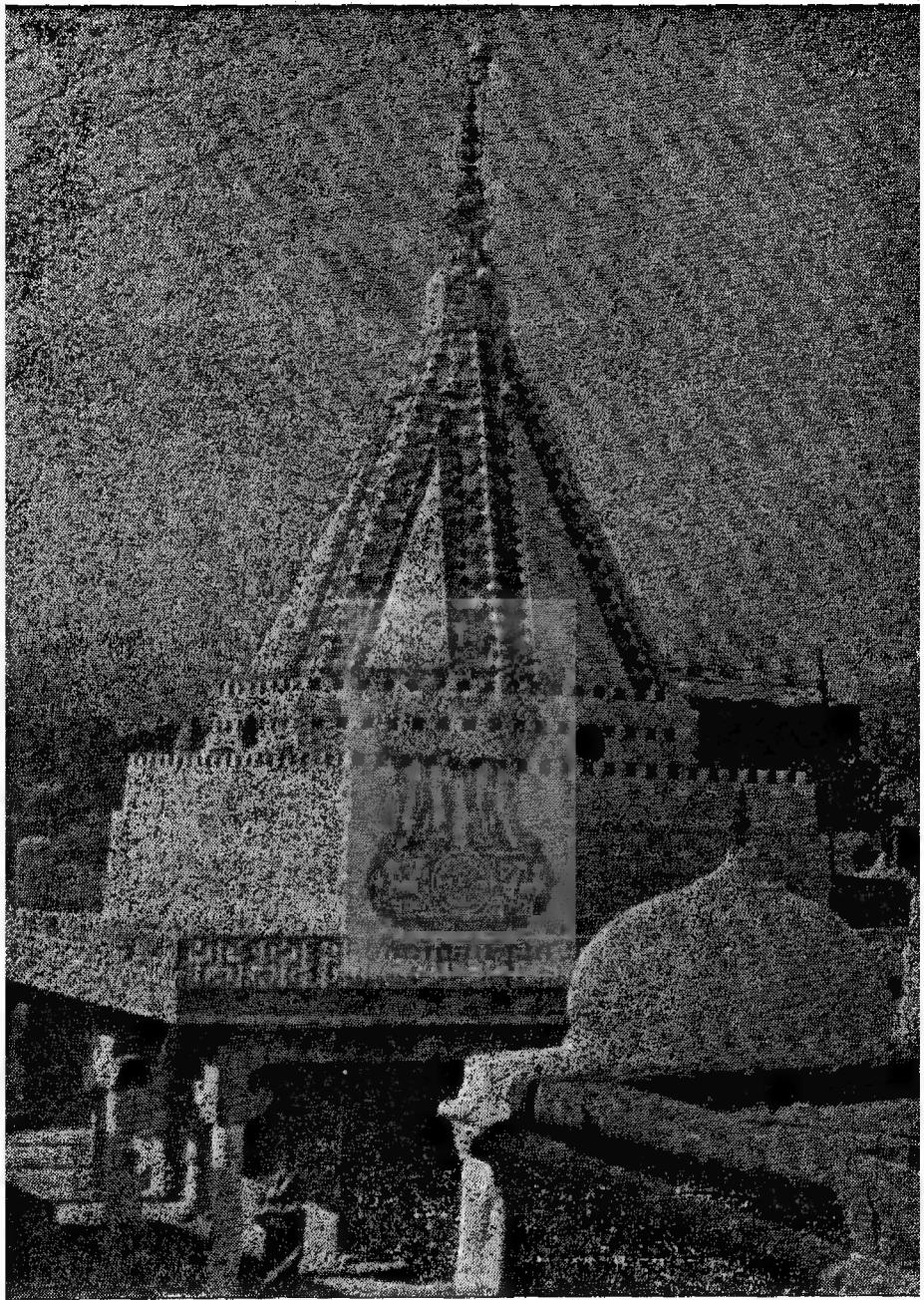
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A Tiger—Dudhwa National Park, Dudhwa

## CHAPTER I

### GENERAL

#### Origin of Name of District

The district derives its name from the small town of Kheri which is said to have been founded by Kshemkarana, a companion of Janmejaya who was a son of Parikshit and grandson of Arjun, the third among the Pandava brothers. Another legend ascribes the name of the district to the abundance of rice and milk, that is Kheer, in the area. It is frequently called Lakhimpur from the location of the headquarters of the district there.

#### Location, Boundaries, Area and Population

**Location and Boundaries**—The district is the northernmost district of the Lucknow Division and is situated in the sub-Himalayan belt bordering the territory of Nepal. It lies between the parallels of  $27^{\circ} 41'$  and  $28^{\circ} 42'$  north latitude and  $80^{\circ} 2'$  and  $81^{\circ} 19'$  east longitude. It is bounded on the east by the Bahraich district being separated from it by the deep stream of the Kauriyala or Ghaghra river; on the south by the Sitapur district and for a short length by the Hardoi district; on the west by the Shahjahanpur and Pilibhit districts, and on the north by the territory of Nepal. In shape it is roughly triangular. The demarcating lines between the district and its surrounding districts and territory are partly natural and partly artificial. Till the year 1899, the Mohan river was accepted as dividing the district from Nepal. This river is, however, prone to change its course markedly with the passage of time, and in order that the chances of the resulting disputes about the boundaries of the district with Nepal might be reduced a fresh agreement was made and a new boundary line was marked off in 1900. A line was determined along the course of the river, marked out at irregular intervals by stone pillars, between which the boundary line was shown by a cleared line, 15 m. broad with a ditch in the centre. The boundary line between the district and the Bahraich district runs along the deep stream of the Kauriyala. The boundary with the Sitapur district is formed in places by the Dahawar and other rivers, while elsewhere it is purely conventional. The same method was followed in demarcating the boundary on the west. In the south-west corner the Sukheta and, for a short distance in the centre of the western side, the Kathna, rivers separate the district from Shahjahanpur. Higher up the Ul performs the same function, and in the extreme north-west the Sutiya nulla is the border line between this district and Pilibhit.

**Area**—According to the central statistical organisation, the district had an area of 7,691 sq. km. on July 1, 1971, ranking fifth in size in the State.

**Population**—According to the census of 1971, the district had 14,86,590 persons with 6,71,586 females and occupied the 33rd place in population among the districts of the State. The rural and urban areas contained 13,94,247 (6,30,125 females) and 92,343 (41,461 females) people, respectively.

### History of District as Administrative Unit

In the days of Akbar the area comprising the district formed part of the province of Avadh and most of it belonged to the sirkar of Khairabad. Of the twenty-two *mahals* that made up the Khairabad sirkar, the whole or part of eight *mahals* only lay within the area comprising the present district. At the time of annexation in 1856, the parganas comprising this district were divided between the two districts of Muhamdi and Mullanpur. The Mullanpur district comprised the land between the Ghaghra or Kauriyala and the Chauka; its headquarters were at Mullanpur, now in Sitapur. The rest was known as Muhamdi where the deputy commissioner was stationed. In 1858 the district was reorganised and the old district of Mullanpur was abolished and part of it was added to the Sitapur district. The headquarters of the district were shifted to Lakhimpur, a more central spot. The district was known as Muhamdi up to 1864 when its name changed to Kheri. The district was divided into three tahsils, that is, Muhamdi, Lakhimpur and Nighasan. In 1954, as a consequence of a change in the course of the deep stream of the river Ghaghra, the villages of Manjha Shumali and Chakdaha of tahsil Nanpara of the Bahraich district were transferred to the Nighasan tahsil of this district of which the Jungle Gulari village was made over to the Nanpara tahsil of the Bahraich district. As a result of this exchange, the net gain in area to this district was 0.2 sq. km.

### Subdivisions, Tahsils and Thanas

The district comprises three subdivisions viz. the Nighasan, Lakhimpur and Muhamdi with three tahsils of same nomenclature, the boundaries of the subdivisions and the tahsils being coterminous.

**Tahsils**—The Nighasan tahsil stretches along the northern and eastern boundaries of the district, comprising the whole tract lying beyond the Chauka river as far as the Nepal boundary on the north, and the Kauriyala on the east. In the extreme north-west the tahsil marches with the Pilibhit district, in the west and south-west with tahsil Lakhimpur, and in the south-east with Sitapur. This tahsil consists of parganas Nighasan, Paila, Khairigarh, Dhaurahra and Firozabad. At the census of 1971, it had 420 villages covering an area of 3,041 sq. km. with a population of 4,59,127 (females 2,06,199). There are 5 development blocks in it.

Lakhimpur tahsil which is centrally situated, lies in the south and west of the Chauka river which separates it from the Nighasan tahsil. To the west are the Sahjanpur district and the Muhamdi tahsil, and to the south lies Sitapur. The tahsil comprises the parganas of

Kheri, Paila and Kukra Mailani to the south of the Ul, and Bhura and Srinagar between that river and the Chauka. At the census of 1971 it had 690 villages and the towns of Lakhimpur and Kheri covering an area of 2,806 sq. km., with a population of 5,94,581 persons (females 2,69,614). There are 6 development blocks in this tahsil.

The Muhamdi tahsil covers the south-western portion of the district. Towards the west and north-west it touches the Shahjahanpur district; in its south lie the districts of Hardoi and Sitapur; and in the east and north-east it is bordered by tahsil Lakhimpur. It contains the seven parganas of Muhamdi, Pasgawan, Aurangabad, Magdapur, Atwa, Piparia, Haiderabad and Kista. At the census of 1971 it had 661 villages and the towns of Muhamdi and Gola Gokarannath, covering an area 1,844 sq. km., with a population of 4,32,882 persons (females 1,95,773). The number of development blocks in the tahsil is 4.

**Thanas.**—For purposes of police administration there are 18 thanas in the district, of which 5 are located in tahsil Nighasan, 7 in tahsil Lakhimpur and 6 in tahsil Muhamdi.

#### TOPOGRAPHY

The district is, in general appearance, a vast alluvial plain traversed by numerous streams flowing in a south-easterly direction. The level surface of the land is varied by the low river-beds and the high banks which flank the streams on either side. The rivers and streams frequently change their courses leaving behind old channels in which water collects to form lakes and swamps. This is particularly so in tahsil Nighasan. The general slope of the country is from north-west to south-east. The altitude above sea-level ranges from some 182 metres in the extreme north along the Mohan to 114 metres in the furthest south-east corner, at the junction of Kauriyala and Dahawar rivers. The steepest gradient occurs in the tract north of the Chauka, the elevation at Dudhwa being 180 metres and only 130 metres at Dhaurahra—an incline of 49 metres in about 64 kilometres. In the country south of the Ul, the slope is comparatively more gradual. Lakhimpur itself is situated on the high bank of the river, 149 metres above the sea-level.

The district may be divided into four main tracts, separated by rivers. In the south-west is the trans-Gomati tract. The western portion is low and is covered in places by grass and dhak jungle. In the centre is a belt of fertile loam, but to the east there is a fringe of inferior sandy land along the Gomati. The second tract, lying between the Gomati and the Kathna, is for the most part high and sandy, especially in the neighbourhood of the Gomati but there is a considerable depression in the north of Aurangabad. To the east of the Kathna river is the central tract. It is the richest part of the district, with a good loam soil but on the borders of the rivers the land is often sandy and of inferior quality. The last tract lies in the north-east of the Ul, comprising half of tahsil Lakhimpur and the whole of tahsil Nighasan. It is cut up with river channels. The northern portion of this tract is largely forest land. The bulk of the tract is liable to be flooded by the rivers and damage to cultivation. The Kauriyala leaves

behind coarse unfertile sand, the Chauka and Dahawar usually yield finer deposits of sand in which a good rice crop is raised. The water level is near the surface, but the water is everywhere bad.

### RIVER SYSTEM AND WATER RESOURCES

The rivers of this district belong to two main systems, those of the Gomati and the Ghaghra (or Kauriyala). The Sukheta, stands apart, as it belongs to a third system, that of the Ganga. A brief description of these rivers is given below :

**Sukheta**—It is the most important river of the district and forms the south-west boundary of the district separating it from district Shahjahanpur, where it rises in  $27^{\circ} 55'$  north latitude and  $80^{\circ} 5'$  east longitude. After flowing for a few kilometres in a south-easterly direction, it turns south to meet the boundary of this district and flowing through it, enters in the north of Hardoi district where it ultimately falls into the Garra.

**Gomati**—It is the next important river of the district and rises in the Pilibhit district in  $28^{\circ} 35'$  north latitude and  $87^{\circ} 80'$  east longitude. After a course of 67 kilometres through Pilibhit and Shahjahanpur, it enters this district at the village of Rampur and leaves it in the extreme south of Aurangabad, where it forms the boundary between the Hardoi and Sitapur districts. This river receives on its right bank two small tributaries, known as the Chuha and Chhuha. The former rises a short distance to the north-west of Muhamdi and joins the Gomati, near Maksudpur in pargana Pasgawan, and the latter has its origin in Shahjahanpur, and after forming the boundary between the Muhamdi and Pasgawan parganas for some distance, flows south through the latter pargana and unites with the main stream on the Hardoi border. The bed of the river is well defined being flanked by high sandy uplands.

**Kathna**—On the east of the Gomati is the Kathna which rises in the Moti jhil in Shahjahanpur and after a course of 16 kilometres first touches this district near Mailani. It then flows towards the south and enters into the Sitapur district, finally meeting the Gomati, after a course of about 160 km.

**Purai and Sarayan**—Between the Kathna and the UI there are two smaller streams. The first of these is the Purai. It is an insignificant drainage channel which rises in the depressions near Khamaria in pargana Kasta and flows south-east into Sitapur, forming the boundary between that district and Lakhimpur Kheri for a short distance. It is only a tributary of the Sarayan, the second stream which rises in the Haidarabad pargana near the town of Gola. From very humble beginnings it assumes a clearly defined shape when it reaches the borders of pargana Kasta. It then flows along the north of that pargana which it separates from Paila, in a very tortuous course and finally turns towards the south and flows into and traversing the Sitapur district, it joins the Gomati.

**Jamwari**—It is a small stream which rises in the north of pargana Paila and flows south-east through that pargana and Kheri. On reaching

the southern boundary of pargana Kheri it turns west along the district border and joins the Sarayan after a course of about 48 km.

The remaining rivers belong to the great system which develops into the Ghaghra.

**Kewani**—It is small stream rising in pargana Kheri near the village of Jumetha. It flows towards the south and enters the Sitapur district where it falls into the Chauka. East of this are many water channels in which the Ul, Chauka, Ghaghra and Ghaghi rivers have previously run.

**Ul**—This river is of considerable size and flows from north-west to south-east through the centre of the district. It rises in swamps in pargana Puranpur of the Pilibhit district and first touches this district in the north-west of pargana Bhura. It forms throughout the boundary of this pargana, separating it from Kukra and Paila on the west and south and afterwards Kheri from Srinagar for nearly the whole distance. In the last lap of its course it turns northwards into Srinagar and then again south-east and finally joins the Chauka on the southern borders of the district close to the boundary of the Lakhimpur and Nighasan tahsils. Its total length is 176 km. In the winter the river shrinks greatly in size but in the rains it swells to a large volume causing floods and damage to the cultivation in its valley.

**Chauka**—This river is also known as the Sarda and contains the combined streams of the Kali and Sarju. It enters this district from district Pilibhit and flows south-east. Throughout its course in this district, where it is generally known as the Chauka till it joins the Ghaghra near Bahramghat, the river separates tahsil Lakhimpur from tahsil Nighasan. Its bed is liable to great changes and from time to time extensive alterations have occurred in its course through Kheri tahsil. From one year to another it is never possible to guess where the river will next elect to flow, a great part of the lowlying country in its neighbourhood getting flooded during the rains, it is always prone to carve out for itself a fresh course. It leaves the district in the extreme south-west corner of tahsil Nighasan and enters the Sitapur district.

**Dahawar**—The Dahawar is a small river which flows along the southern boundary of tahsil Nighasan from the north-west to the south-east and discharges its water into the Ghaghra. Its volume depends upon the deflection into it of the waters of the Chauka, which, when deflected into this river, impart to it formidable dimensions eroding its banks and inundating the neighbouring low land. It is fed by a small stream known as the Sukhni, which flows through the parganas of Nighasan, Dhaurahra and Firozabad.

**Suheli**—The Suheli or Sarju river enters the district from Nepal in the north of pargana Paila and flows in a south-easterly direction with a very irregular course along the boundary of the Khairigarh pargana and finally joins the Kauriyala a little north-east of village Purbian Purwa. Like the Chauka, its course is liable to change and its bed varies from year to year. It is fed by several small streams most of which flow down from higher land on the north, draining the central depression of the forest tract of Khairigarh.

**Mohan**—Along the northern borders of Khairigarh flows the Mohan, which enters the district from Nepal near the village of Kajaria and flows south-east to join the Kauiyala a short distance above Rammagar. It rises in the swamps of the Nepal forests and is at first a small stream but after receiving a number of tributaries its volume is greatly increased.

**Kauiyala (or Ghaghra)**—The Kauiyala flows along the eastern boundary of the district. It has its origin in the Nepal hills and is known by this name till its junction with the Chauka, after which it becomes the Ghaghra. It flows in a wide and sandy bed, and its channel is liable to undergo constant changes. The floods of this river occasionally do much damage.

**Lakes**—Comparatively large areas of the district remain under water but it is only natural since rivers and streams are specially numerous in the district, and have frequently changed their courses, leaving behind old channels in which water collects to form lakes or swamps on a more or less permanent basis. There are very few regular lakes north of the Ul, but numerous large sheets of water occur to the south in the Paila, Haidarabad and Kheri parganas. The largest is at Simri in Paila and measures about 3 km. in length and breadth. In pargana Kheri there are fine stretches of water at Gomchani and another large lake borders the village of Sikandarnabad. These lakes are, generally, very shallow. In the north of the Ul the old channels of the Chauka, Kauiyala and other rivers have left pools and depressions filled with water especially where the streams flow in curves. Some of these lakes are 3 to 6 metres deep, and about 5 to 6 km. long. The lakes at Ramian Behar in Dhaurahra, beyond Tikaulia in Paila and near Matera on the Kauiyala are among the most noticeable ones. The other big lakes are at Dharmapur in Paila and all along the Suheli. In Khairigarh there are many such lakes and swamps : the Rohia, Patehri, Jabda, Bhadi, Jharela, Khajua, and Mujhela lakes might well merit mention here.

#### GEOLOGY

Geologically the district is formed by the pleistocene and recent rocks composed of the ordinary Gangetic alluvium. The only mineral of importance is *kankar* found in several parts of tahsils Lakhimpur and Muhamdi. Lime of good quality is obtained from the *silia-kankar* found in abundance in the neighbourhood of Gola Gokaramnath. Brick-earth is obtained in most parts of the Lakhimpur and Muhamdi tahsils and bricks of fair quality are produced.

#### SEISMOLOGY

The district lies in a zone liable to moderate damage from earthquakes. Although no earthquake of any significance has been located in the past, the area has been affected by moderate to great earthquakes originating in the Great Himalayan Boundary Fault Zone and other tectonic features which lie to the north of the district along the Himalayan mountain range and the Moradabad fault. In 1956 an earthquake was experienced at Lakhimpur which was capable of causing

slight damage. In the earthquake zone map of India this district has been placed in Zone III where maximum intensity likely to reach in future earthquake is VII on the Modified Mercalli scale—1931 (I, not felt, to XII, total damage).

## FLORA

The greater part of the Khairigarh pargana in the north and portions of the Paila and Nighasan parganas to the north of the Chauka river are covered with forests. There is a belt of forest extending over much of the Bhura and Kukra-Mailani parganas. There is a continuous tract of forest all along the Kathna river and the eastern bank of the Gomati shows patches of forests as far south as Muhamdi. There is also a continuous belt of forest along the river Ul. Out of an area of about 28,904 hectares of land covered with timber and other trees and shrubs in the district and under the management of the forest department, areas of about 16,608 hectares, 8,412 hectares and 3,884 hectares lie in tahsils Nighasan, Lakhimpur and Muhamdi respectively. The forest area in the district under the control of the Gaon Sabhas is about 5,581 hectares of which an area of about 174 hectares is covered with timber trees and the remaining with other species of trees and shrubs. Of the timber forests tahsil Nighasan contains 135 hectares and tahsil Lakhimpur 39 hectares. The forest area under other trees and shrubs extends over 573 hectares in tahsil Nighasan, 2,137 hectares in tahsil Lakhimpur and 2,647 hectares in tahsil Muhamdi.

The sal is the principal tree of the forest found in the district. The chief associates of the sal are asna (*Terminalia tomentosa*), haldū (*Adina cordifolia*); phaldu (*Mitragyna nervosa*), asidh (*Lagerstromia speciosa*), tendu (*Diospyros tomentosa*), malwa (*Madhuca indica*), domsal (*Miliusa velutina*), jamun (*Syzygium cumini*), bhakmal (*Ardisia solanoides*), shisham (*Dalbergia sissoo*), semal (*Salmalia malabarica*), tun (*Cedrela toona*), dhak (*Butea monosperma*), neem (*Azadirachta indica*), amaltash (*Cassia fistula*), imli (*Tamarindus indica*) and teak (*Tectona grandis*).

**Groves**—There are 8,350 groves in the district, the smallest being below 0.4 hectares in area. The abnormal rise registered by the prices of all commodities, including fire-wood and timber, since about the conclusion of the Second World War, tempted the owners of groves to fell not only barren and dried-up trees in their groves but also green ones for sale as fuel or timber used in various constructive activities at highly remunerative rates. The object of earning greater profits did not end here. They wanted to utilise the lands under their groves, so cleared of the trees, for raising various crops so as to derive profits much higher than formerly, since the prices of all farm produce had risen many times over. The prospects of higher returns accruing both from the trees and the lands under them naturally made for a marked reduction in the number of groves in the district, as, indeed, elsewhere as well. The abridgement of the protective cover of trees from lands under groves threatened to bring about various degrees of soil erosion and decline in rainfall in the affected areas. The harmful tendency to fell trees indiscriminately in pursuit of ready and bigger profits had, therefore, to be curbed by legislation. Moreover, the government offered

financial assistance in various forms to stimulate interest in the improvement of the existing groves and the plantation of fresh ones. The decline in the number of groves has thus been arrested. Plantation of orchards, mostly of *qalmi* (grafted) mango trees has picked up in the district as an enterprise yielding highly paying results within a comparatively small period of about three years.

### FAUNA

The wide extend of forests in the district is responsible for the presence of a large number and variety of wild animals in the district. Tigers are found in the less accessible forests of Khairigarh and Kukra, while leopards are fairly common in the jungle tract. Wild pigs (*Sus cristatus*), wolves (*Canis lupus*), barking-deer (*Muntiacus muntjak*), four-horned antelopes (*Tetracerus quadricornis*), cheetal or spotted deer (*Axis axis*), sambhar (*cervus unicolor*), parha (*Axis porcinus*), nilgai (*Boselaphus tragocamelus*), wild dogs, hyenas, bears and smaller animals like jackal (*Canis aureus*), hare (*Lepus ruficandetus*), and fox (*Vulpes bengalensis*) are numerous.

**Birds**—The birds of the district are similar to those of the adjoining districts. Game birds are found in abundance. The chief game birds found are several varieties of ducks, partridges and pigeons. Water-fowl of all kinds, both migratory and otherwise are common in the district. Besides these the other varieties of birds which are commonly found in the district are the peacock, quail (*Coturnix coromandelicus*), jungle-fowl (*Gallus sonneratti*); snipe (*Coppilla gallinago*), parrot (*Psittacula cynocephala*), kite, crow (*corvus splendeus*), vulture, bulbul (*Molpastes safer*), mynah, *baya* or weaver bird, sparrow and *bagula* (heron and egret).

**Reptiles**—Different varieties of snakes and other reptiles are found in the district especially in the rural areas. Some snakes are deadly, e. g. the cobra (*Naja naja*), krait (*Bungarus caeruleus*) and rat-snake (*Ptyas mucosus*). Though the majority of snakes are non-poisonous, a few people die of snakebite almost every year. The other reptiles found in the district are gharial (*Gavialis gangeticus*), monitor lizard (*Varanus bengalensis*) and python (*Python molurus*).

**Fish**—Fish are found in the rivers, lakes and ponds of the district. The species commonly found in the district are *rohu* (*Labeo rohita*), *karounch* (*Labeo calbasu*), *bata* (*Labeo bata*), *khursa* (*Labeo gonius*), *bhakur* (*Catla catla*), *nain* (*Cirrihina mirgala*), *raiya* (*Cirrihina reba*), *darhi* (*Barbus barana*), *putia* (*Barbus stigma*), *parhan* (*Wallaconia attu*), *tengra* (*Mystus aor*), *tingan* (*Mystus vitatus*), *chegna* (*Ophicephalus straitus*), *girai* (*Ophicephalus gachuwa*), *patra* (*Notopeternus notopeternus*), *moi* (*Notopeternus chitala*), *mangur* (*Clarias mangur*), *singhi* (*Heteropneustes fossilis*), *chelwa* (*Chela bacula*), *belgagra* (*Rita rita*) and *gonch* (*Bagarius bagarius*).

### Game-Laws

The game-laws applicable to the district were enacted in the Wild Birds and Animal Protection (U.P. Amendment) Act, 1984. It has been replaced by the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 which made game-laws more stringent with a view to conserving wild life and preventing the

extinction of certain species. The wolf, crocodile, gharial and peafowl have been declared protected species while certain restrictions have been placed on the shooting of wild pigs, nilgai and some other species of animals. The punishment for infringement of the laws has been made more deterrent. Breaches of the game-laws in the district are watched and prosecuted by the divisional forest officers.

#### CLIMATE

The climate of this district, similar to that of the districts in the plains of central Uttar Pradesh, is characterised by a dry hot summer and a pleasant cold season. The year may be divided into four seasons. The cold season lasts from about the end of November to the end of February, followed by the summer season from March to the third week of June. The period from the last week of June to the end of September is the south-west monsoon season and October and the November constitute the post-monsoon season.

**Rainfall**—The district has three raingauge stations with records extending back to about 90 years. The details of the rainfall at these stations and the data for the district as a whole are given in Statement I at the end of the chapter. The average annual rainfall in the district is 1,068.7 mm. The rainfall generally increases from the south-west to the north-east. The monsoon advances into the district by about the third week of June and withdraws by about the last week of September. About 86 per cent of the annual rainfall is received during the monsoon months, June to September; July and August are the雨iest months. The variations in the rainfall from year to year are appreciable. In the fifty years from 1901 to 1950, the highest annual rainfall, amounting to 174 per cent of the normal, occurred in 1922. The lowest annual rainfall which was in 1907 amounted to only 47 per cent of the normal. During these fifty years the annual rainfall was less than 80 per cent of the normal in 9 years. Two consecutive years with less than 80 per cent of the normal rainfall occurred twice in this period in the district. Nighasan had 3 consecutive years of such low rainfall only once during this period of fifty years. The rainfall in the district was between 800 and 1,300 mm. in 36 years out of these fifty years.

A statement regarding the frequency of the annual rainfall, in the district, within certain ranges, is given below for the period 1901-50 :

Range in mm.	No. of years
1	2
501-600	2
601-700	8
701-800	1
801-900	8.
901-1000	2
1001-1100	15

[Continued]

1	2
1101-1200	6
1201-1300	5
1301-1400	4
1401-1500	1
1501-1600	1
1601-1700	0
1701-1800	0
1801-1900	2

On an average there are 48 rainy days (i.e. days with rainfall of 2.5 mm. or more) in a year in the district. This number varies from 45 at Muhamdi to 52 at Nighasan. The heaviest rainfall in 24 hours recorded at any station in the district was 409.1 mm. at Kheri on August 31, 1870.

**Temperature**—There is a meteorological observatory at Kheri where records cover about a decade, and these records may be taken as representative of the conditions in the district in general. The cold season starts by about the end of November when the temperatures commences falling rapidly. January is the coldest month with the mean daily maximum and minimum temperatures at  $22.2^{\circ}\text{C}$ . ( $72.0^{\circ}\text{F}$ .) and  $9.1^{\circ}\text{C}$ . ( $48.4^{\circ}\text{F}$ .) respectively. In association with the cold waves arising in the wake of the western disturbances which travel eastwards, the minimum temperature goes down to about  $3^{\circ}\text{C}$ . ( $37.4^{\circ}\text{F}$ .). From about the end of February the temperature begins to rise rapidly. May is the hottest month with the mean daily maximum and minimum temperatures at  $40.3^{\circ}\text{C}$ . ( $104.5^{\circ}\text{F}$ .) and  $25.4^{\circ}\text{C}$ . ( $77.7^{\circ}\text{F}$ .) respectively. The intense heat of the summer with the dry hot westerly winds is very trying. The maximum temperature may sometimes rise up to about  $46^{\circ}\text{C}$ . ( $114.8^{\circ}\text{F}$ .). With the advent of the monsoon in the third week of June there is an appreciable decrease in the day temperature, but the night temperature remains as high as during summer. With the increased moisture in the air during the monsoon season, despite the decrease in day temperature, the weather is often oppressive in between the rains. In September there is a slight increase again in day temperature. After the withdrawal of the monsoon by about the end of September, both day and night temperatures decrease progressively.

The highest maximum temperature recorded at Kheri was  $46.1^{\circ}\text{C}$ . ( $115.0^{\circ}\text{F}$ .) on June 6, 1958, and the lowest minimum temperature was  $2.8^{\circ}\text{C}$  ( $37.0^{\circ}\text{F}$ ) on January 1, 1955. The details of temperature are given in Statement II at the end of the chapter.

**Humidity**—The air is very humid in the monsoon season. Thereafter the relative humidity decreases gradually. The summer season is the driest part of the year when the relative humidity, especially in the afternoons, is below 80 per cent.

**Cloudiness**—The sky is usually heavily clouded or overcast during the monsoon season. During the winter season, the sky remains mostly clear except when western disturbances pass over the district and the sky becomes cloudy for short spells of a day or two. During the rest of the year the sky is generally lightly to moderately clouded.

**Winds**—Winds are generally light throughout the year. In the late summer and the south-west monsoon season, easterlies and south-easterlies predominate. In the rest of the year winds are mostly from the west or the north-west.

**Special Weather Phenomena**—Some of the depressions or cyclonic storms from the Bay of Bengal during the south-west monsoon season affect the district and its neighbourhood during the last stages of their travel and cause widespread rain. Duststorms and thunderstorms occur during the summer particularly in the latter half of the season. Rainfall during the south-west monsoon season is also often associated with thunder. The few thunderstorms during the latter part of the cold season which are associated with passing western disturbances are accompanied occasionally with hail.



## **STATEMENT I**

### **Rainfall**

Station	No. of years of data	Normals of rainfall									
		January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Kheri	50 a	22.9	22.9	12.5	8.4	28.7	145.5	297.7	288.0		
	b	1.6	1.8	1.1	0.8	2.1	6.1	11.6	12.4		
Muhamdi	50 a	18.8	22.1	10.4	7.9	18.8	115.1	272.8	272.8		
	b	1.6	1.8	1.0	0.7	1.5	4.9	11.5	11.9		
Nighasan	50 a	21.8	27.9	14.0	9.4	29.2	158.0	322.1	318.4		
	b	1.7	2.1	1.2	0.9	2.2	6.9	18.0	18.1		
Kheri (District)	a	20.8	24.8	12.8	8.6	25.4	189.5	297.5	289.7		
	b	1.6	1.9	1.1	0.8	1.9	6.0	12.0	12.5		

(a) Normal rainfall in mm.

(b) Average number of rainy days (days with rain of 2.5 mm. or more)

\*Based on all available data up to 1959

## Reference Page No. 9

September	October	November	December	Annual	Extremes of rainfall				
					Highest annual rainfall as % of normal with year	Lowest annual rainfall as % of normal with year	Heaviest rainfall in 24 hours* Amount (mm.)	Date	
11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	
198.8	41.7	5.8	8.1	1,070.0	193 (1986)	87 (1941)	419.1	August 31, 1870	
7.8	1.5	0.2	0.7	47.2					
188.7	42.7	8.8	7.9	980.8	181 (1923)	89 (1918)	817.5	June 29, 1870	
7.8	1.8	0.8	0.8	45.1					
208.2	41.1	6.9	9.1	1,155.6	175 (1922)	52 (1907)	298.5	September 22, 1922	
27.8	1.7	0.8	0.8	51.7					
195.1	41.8	5.8	8.4	1,068.7	174 (1922)	47 (1907)	—	—	
17.6	1.5	0.8	0.8	48.0					

## STATEMENT II

## Normals of Temperature and Relative Humidity

Reference Page No. 10

Month	Mean daily maximum temperature (in centi-grade)	Mean daily minimum temperature (in centi-grade)	Highest maximum ever recorded (in centi-grade)		Lowest minimum ever recorded (in centi-grade)	Date	Relative humidity 08.30	Relative humidity 17.30*
			Date	January 3, 1958				
January	22.2	9.1	27.8	2.8	January 1, 1955	83	64	
February	25.9	10.8	32.8	5.1	February 18, 1957	74	48	
March	31.8	16.0	39.4	9.7	March 5, 1958	63	37	
April	37.6	20.9	43.3	15.0	April 1, 1951	44	25	
May	40.8	25.4	45.0	16.7	May 18, 1958	47	27	
June	37.7	26.8	46.1	17.3	June 24, 1958	69	49	
July	32.7	25.8	40.6	22.2	July 23, 1954	86	75	
August	32.1	25.6	36.7	22.2	August 7, 1957	88	79	
September	32.7	24.8	36.1	21.1	September 30, 1957	84	75	
October	31.7	20.1	35.0	12.8	October 29, 1954	79	61	
November	28.5	18.0	35.8	6.1	November 28, 1952	75	60	
December	24.3	9.8	28.8	5.0	December 31, 1954	81	61	
Annual	31.5	19.0	...	...	...	71	56	

\* Hours according to Indian Standard Time

## CHAPTER II

### HISTORY

#### ANCIENT PERIOD

The historical lore of the region forming the present district, dates back to a hoary past, as amply borne out by the existence of numerous ancient sites in and around it. The earliest traditions of this place associate two places, Gola and the temple of Gaj Moehan Nath, both in tahsil Muhamdi, with the Ramayana and the Puranic Gaja-Graha episode. The latter is said to have taken place where Lord Vishnu rested after he had as in a legend, rescued an elephant from the clutches of an alligator; the former is connected with the story about Ravana's attempt to take Lord Mahadeva to Sri Lanka, when that deity allowed him only the shifting of his image stipulating, however, that should it touch the earth anywhere en route it would remain there forever. Ravana, accordingly, set out with the precious acquisition but, on arriving at Gola, he was obliged to entrust it to a boy, an Ahir by caste, for as short while to find time to answer the call of nature. As luck would have it, his absence was so prolonged that the boy felt tired and placed the statue on the earth where it has remained ever since then. On return, Ravana finding the image immovable, pressed the lingam so hard that a depression appeared where he had put his thumb.<sup>1</sup>

The area covering the present district, is said to represent the kingdom which formed part of the domains of the lunar race of Kshatriyas of Hastinapur.<sup>2</sup> Kundanpur, near Khairigarh, is associated with the episode of Krishna's carrying off of Rukmini and also with the Naga Yajna (serpent sacrifice) performed by Janmejaya, a great-grandson of Arjuna, one of the Pandava brothers. However, the association of both of these legends with Ahar, in Bulandshahr, would tend to detract from the authenticity of these claims.<sup>3</sup> The origin of the old village of Balmiar Barkbar, in tahsil Muhamdi, is attributed to king Vajrata, a contemporary of the Pandavas, and is believed to have been part of his kingdom.<sup>4</sup> The village lies 70 km. south-west of Kheri on top of an extensive brick mound. Balmiar Barkbar is said to be a corrupt form of Barjakhera or Vairat Khera. According to General Cunningham,<sup>5</sup> "the ruined mound was 1,000 feet (305 metres) in length at the top from east to west, by 600 feet (183 metres) in breadth, and from 16 to 20 feet (5 metres to 6 metres) in height. The dimensions at the base were much more, as the slope was very gentle, being 200 feet (61 metres) in

<sup>1</sup> *National Herald* (Supplement on Kheri) February 9, 1958, p. 1

<sup>2</sup> Nevill, H.R. : *Kheri, A Gazetteer*, p. 137

<sup>3</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>4</sup> Fuhrer, A. : *The Monumental Antiquities and Inscriptions in the N.W. Provinces and Oudh*, p. 283

<sup>5</sup> *Ibid.*

length on the north side. The surface area of the mound was estimated as 14,00,000 sq. ft. (.3 hectares). The fields around it were strewn with broken bricks and there were remains of several brick temples. The area covered by the mound was not less than 2,000 sq. ft. (.05 acres) and more than one and a half mile (2.4 km.) in circuit, which indicated that Balmiar Barkhar must once have been a town of good size". However, the local traditions about the origin of this village have to be examined in the light of subsequent surveys carried out by archaeologists like Cunningham and others who have identified Alwar in Rajasthan as the territory belonging to king Vairata, and the probable spot where the Pandavas had spent their period of exile.<sup>1</sup>

The district may, however, claim, with some measure of complacency that Balmiar Barkhar has been the capital of a wealthy and populous kingdom 3,500 years ago. The village is said to have been the residence of Raja Bairat or Vairata. Details of the sojourn of the Pandavas, with the precise spot on which each incident occurred, are, pointed out by the inhabitants.<sup>2</sup> "Here," they say, "stood the palace of the king's wicked brother-in-law Kichaka." They point out still the hollow in the ground where, as in a huge mortar, Kichaka was pounded by the mighty Bhima. There is also a small mound where they say Kichaka's dead body was burnt. The rest of the Pandavas' adventures described locally are more prosaic but their life, allegedly spent here, as handed down to us in the *Mahabharata*, constitutes the most detailed picture of a Hindu court and the then domestic life, the narration being far more minute than the biblical account of the Pharaohs of Egypt, the contemporaries of Raja Bairat of Barkhar.<sup>3</sup> The recent researches on the *Mahabharata*, however, cannot do away with the traditional history which is dear to the people of the district. The local traditions of eastern Bengal explicitly claim that Dinajpur in Bengal, which is still called Matsya, was the capital of Virata. They show, as proof, the remains of ancient forts which they say belonged to Vairata and Kichaka.<sup>4</sup> Similarly, the local traditions of Gujarat point out that Dholka town was known as Matsyanagar or Viratnagar where Bhima fought against the Asuras; and in which region, the sage Vyasa was born of Matsya, the fish girl.<sup>5</sup> Whether it was in the peninsula of Gujarat or in east Bengal, either is far too distant from the neighbourhood of Hastinapur to admit of the alleged campaigns and in comparison to them the identification of Raja Bairat's capital with this little village, Bairat Khera, in Kheri presents a more plausible scene of Bhima's exploit.<sup>6</sup> Moreover the whole district, west of the Kathna, has been called from time immemorial Paruhar or Panduhars, i.e. the place where the Pandavas wandered during their exile from the court of Delhi. The area covered by the ancient kingdom of Kannauj is also in the immediate vicinity of Balmiar Barkhar. In 1030 A.D., Al Biruni, the Arabian geographer wrote that Kannauj was as celebrated for the descendants of the Pandavas as Mathura was for Krishna's.<sup>7</sup> The tradition, which

<sup>1</sup> Fuhrer, A. : *op. cit.*, p. 283

<sup>2</sup> Mc Minn : *Gazetteer of the Province of Oudh*, Vol. II, p. 236

<sup>3</sup> *Ibid.*, pp. 236-237

<sup>4</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 238

<sup>5</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>6</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>7</sup> *Ibid.*

represents Barkhar as the capital of Bairat, is not isolatedly current in this district. It extends all over Avadh. The boundaries of Vairat's kingdom are still pointed out by the people. Hargaon, a town 56 km. to the east is admitted by the inhabitants of the district to have been a mere postal or frontier habitation belonging to Raja Bairat, who reigned at Barkhar. The probability that Arjuna married the daughter of Gandrak, and fought with his son, Babhruvahan, at Manwan in the adjacent district of Sitapur cannot be ruled out.<sup>1</sup> The Bachhil Rajputs of this district also appear to be the descendants of Raja Bairat or his subjects. General Cunningham felt that similarity of sound alone might have led to the identification of Barkhar with Bariakhera and Vairata Raja; but in his account of the inscription found at Dewal in district Pilibhit he has written that "the Bachhil Rajputs claimed descent from Raja Vena whose son was Virat, the reputed founder of Baribhar or Viratkhera."<sup>2</sup> Meminn also believes that Raja Virata and Vira Varamma of the inscription are the same.<sup>3</sup> The origin of Kheri is traced to as far back as the visit of Janmejaya's companion Kshemakarana, who is said to have founded the town. Kshemakarana is believed to have accompanied Janmejaya who had visited these parts in hot pursuit of the snakes. Janmejaya killed the Scythian chief who had killed his father, Parikshit, by deceit. The naming of the village was undertaken to commemorate the slaying of a snake by Janmejaya.<sup>4</sup> Yet another legend is that Kheri town was so named as there was an abundance of rice and milk i.e. Ksheer in the arca.<sup>5</sup>

"Kheri pargana is studded with brick mounds-sites of ancient cities—in the villages of Gum, Ujar, Gunchaini and Salempur and on the banks of the river Ul are the ruins of an ancient nameless town consisting of an almost unbroken line of brick-strewn mounds (*kheras*) extending from village Rampur Gokul to Rangilnagar."<sup>6</sup>

About 8 kilometres west of Lakhimpur lies the village of Devkali, which possesses a masonry tank called Surajkund and extensive mounds covered with broken statues of Durga, Navagraha and others. According to local tradition, Janmejaya had performed the great snake-sacrifice on the bank of this ancient tank.<sup>7</sup> Gola Gokarannath, a renowned place of Hindu pilgrimage possesses numerous sites and temples existing from times immemorial. The famous Siva temple is situated on the banks of a holy river which has completely dried up now, although its course is visible in the shape of a sand-ridge. Several relics very much resemble the configuration of Buddhist stupas. The gates on the borders of this holy site are reminiscent of Buddhist and Hindu architecture generally met with at consecrated places of these religions. All these monuments and lesser shrines point out that this district, which was essentially covered by dense forests, once upon a time, served as an ideal retreat for Buddhist monks and Hindu sages. This fact is further

<sup>1</sup> Mc Minn : *A Gazetteer of the Province of Oudh*, p. 239

<sup>2</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>3</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>4</sup> Meminn: *A Gazetteer of the Province of Oudh*, Vol. II, p. 269

<sup>5</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>6</sup> Fuhrer, A. : *The Monumental Antiquities and Inscriptions in the N. W. Province and Oudh*, p. 286

<sup>7</sup> *Ibid.*

supported by the Buddhist bas-reliefs and several Buddhist terracotta images of the purist type which have been discovered in and around the area.<sup>1</sup> The numismatic evidence provided by the copper coins of Ayodhya (Kosala), and, Panchala kingdoms<sup>2</sup> suggests that the territory comprising the present district was probably clothed with thick forests which lay between these two kingdoms or formed part of Kosala, which nearly comprised all the terai region in the north-west, throughout its history as an independent *janapada* (republic).<sup>3</sup> All these testimonies lend some support to the view that this region was considerably influenced by the pre-Buddhist and Buddhist activities.<sup>4</sup> All this, however, refers to a period so remote that present day research has not probed it yet. But coming to later times, we get some tangible proofs that the region occupied by the present district had attained to a position of importance even in the times of the Mauryas. From the find of over 2,000 punch-marked coins at Paila in the district, it may be inferred that either the district formed part of the territories of the Saisunaga and Maurya dynasties, or had trade relations with them.

About 18 km. east of Gola Gokarannath lies the village Bhetva or Mosain, strewn with extensive ruins of a yet unidentified ancient city, now lost in dense jungle. Two of the most prominent mounds called, Faqir-ki-Mathi and Telenia Bijua, are covered with fragments of large bricks and broken statues of Vishnu and Mahishmardini (Durga). In many places the walls of buildings, constructed of bricks measuring 18" X 4", rising up to some 6 metres above the ground and several octagonal wells built of large *kankar* blocks are still to be seen, and bear testimony to the antiquity of the place.<sup>5</sup> In the Bhuc pargana, all along the edge of the great sal forests and near the banks of the river Ul, there are found numerous brick-strewn mounds or *dihs* and occasionally remains of large masonry wells. These mounds have never been excavated and as some of them are certainly Buddhist stupas they merit careful exploration. The villages of Aliganj, Shahpur, Barhaiya Khera and Jagdishpur contain ruins of large brick forts and tanks attributed to the mythical king Vena. After the fall of the Mauryas this tract passed on to the Sungas, which is supported by the discovery there of a coin belonging to Agnimitra and a clay seal bearing an inscription of Varahdatta in the character of the 2nd century B.C.<sup>6</sup> The absence of historical details regarding the tract forming the present district after the Sungas makes the pursuit of local history very difficult but with the finding of some ancient coins belonging to the age of Vasudeva, the Kushana king, (145-176 A.D.) in village Sisawan, thana Naivigaon in 1901 and 1910, and several other coins from the adjoining district,<sup>7</sup> it may be assumed that this region was possibly under the sway of the Kushana rulers and their influence ended only after the death of Vasudeva.

<sup>1</sup> Fuhrer, A : *op. cit.*, pp. 294-385-85

<sup>2</sup> Pathak; *op. cit.*, pp. 38, 39; *National Herald*, (Supplement on Kheri) dated February, 1958

<sup>3</sup> Pathak, *op. Cit.*, pp.38-39

<sup>4</sup> *National Herald* (Supplement on Kheri) dated February 9, 1958, p. 1

<sup>5</sup> Fuhrer, A. : *Monumental Antiquities and Inscriptions in the N.W. Provinces and Oudh*, p. 284

<sup>6</sup> *National Herald* (Supplement on Kheri), dated February 9, 1958, p. 1

<sup>7</sup> Srivastava, A.K. : *Findspots of Kushana Coins in U.P.*, No. 8, p. 38 (Bulletin of Museums Archaeology in U.P.)

After the decline of the Kushanas, there was no central power to fill up the political vacuum created in the whole of northern India. It was only after the rise of the Imperial Guptas that there came a central authority to govern this region. Thus in the village of Fath Karra about ten miles from Lakhimpur, among the numerous mounds covered with broken bricks and blocks of carved stone, embedded in dense jungle, the principal mound seems to have been crowned by a large temple, dedicated to Surya, as a large sculpture representing Surya and his seven horses still lies there, half buried in the mound. Large pillars and friezes of the Gupta period and statues representing Durga, Ardhanarishwara and Vishnu are also found scattered about in the jungle,<sup>1</sup> and show considerable force of expression and freedom of execution. And about two miles north-west of the fort at Khairigarh in the Nighasan tahsil, stood till 1885 a life-size stone figure of a horse, buried in dense jungle. Though of crude workmanship, it is, nevertheless, interesting on account of the existence of a fragmentary Gupta inscription on the right of the neck of the stone horse. Since the inscription was mutilated, there were doubts about the authenticity of the restoration but Mr. Ratnakar dispelled all doubts by reading another inscription on the back of the horse written in shell characters as "Chandra-Gupta pituh," meaning father of Chandragupta. Only two of the Gupta emperors performed horse sacrifices, Samudragupta and his grandson Kumaragupta, naturally the reference in the inscription is to Samudragupta only. The attitude is stiff, and workmanship of the leg is hard, weary, and unnatural but the back is skillfully caparisoned. Judging from the inscription, it is meant to be a substitute for a real, but costly, sacrificial horse. This stone horse is now standing in the compound of the Lucknow Museum.<sup>2</sup> There is also a square fort which is now in ruins and is associated with the name of Shihab-ud-din Ghori, who is said to have confined in it Prithviraj Chauhan after defeating him, but this tradition is probably ill-founded because the distance between Delhi and Kheri is quite long. Of course, the fort could be that ancient or more. The walls and bastions are built of huge blocks of dressed kankar below, and above, of bricks of very large size; the interior now lies waste and is infested with wild beasts<sup>3</sup>. The fort was one of the best in India, as recorded in *Ain-i-Akbari*, and was visited by Firuz Tughlaq in 1355, while going to Bihraich. Outside the fort lie scattered in the jungle fragments of ancient sculpture, mostly representing the different avatars of Vishnu, and many such carved stones were later on utilised in the construction of the walls of the Ziarat Shahadat<sup>4</sup>. These fragments no doubt, belonged to some ancient Hindu sene in the neighbourhood.<sup>4</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Fuhrer, A.: *The Monumental Antiquities and Inscriptions in the N.W. Provinces and Oudh*, pp. 286–387

<sup>2</sup> *National Herald* (Supplement on Kheri) dated February 9, 1958, p. 1

<sup>3</sup> Fuhrer, A: *The Monumental Antiquities and Inscriptions in the N.W. Provinces and Oudh*, pp. 285–286

<sup>4</sup> *Ibid.*

After the decline of the Guptas the history of this region is completely obscure. It may, however, be said that during the rule of the Meukharis it was nearly free from the control of any central authority and was ruled over by the local chiefs. But when the Vardhana dynasty came to power at Kannauj, the region was certainly included in the territories of Harsha. Nothing, however, is known as to which *bhukti* (province) it formed part of because as mentioned in the memoirs of Hiven Tsang's travels, no less than three provinces had been formed in the region which included this district : Ramagrama, mostly waste and wild and ill-defined; Govisana, which, according to Cunningham corresponded very nearly with the modern districts of Naini Tal (Kashipur region) and Pilibhit; and Ahichhatra which included Ramnagar in Bareilly and the eastern part of Rohilkhand.<sup>1</sup> The history of the subsequent period is completely blank, except that Adivaraha coins of 9th century A.D. belonging to Bhoja Deva II of Kannauj are commonly found in most parts of the province.<sup>2</sup> It may not be a far-fetched theory to identify this period with the times in which Pasis and other aboriginal tribes are said to have held this part of the country. No signs of Pasis dominion have, however, survived which need not surprise us, as their possessions have for long periods been held by the descendants of Rajput and Muslim invaders.<sup>3</sup>

Bachhils are the earliest Rajputs of whom anything is known. They claim descent from the mythical Raja Vena, the father of Vairata, whose capital has been identified with Balmiar Barkhar. Nothing more definite is known of the origin of the Bachhils. Their earliest settlements were in Rohilkhand, where they were the dominant race until the appearance of the early Muslims and Katchriya Rajputs who invaded their territories, and drove them into the jungles across the Deoha river in Pilibhit where they established themselves in a small territory between that river and the forests of the terai, one of their strongholds being in this district at Balmiar Barkhar.<sup>4</sup> Later, they appear to have moved further north and in 992 A.D. we find that a local chief named Lalla governed at Garh Gajana or Illahabas near Dowal in Pilibhit. This place is 25 km. south-east of Pilibhit, on the banks of the Katni Nala and 56 km. north-west of Barkhar. In fact, all the capitals of the Bachhil clan—Balmiar Barkhar and Nigohi (in Shahjahanpur) Garh Gajana (in Pilibhit) and Kanp in this district are within a few miles of each other, two in Shahjahanpur west of the Gaumti, two in Kheri east of the old river. It would seem that their authority extended over Muhamdi, Pasgawan, Atwa Piparia and Bhur and that their domains marched with those of the Katchriyas on the west and Ahbands on the east.<sup>5</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Tripathi, R.S. : *History of Kannauj*: pp. 89, 91

<sup>2</sup> Nevill: *Kheri : A Gazetteer*, p. 187

<sup>3</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>4</sup> Bingley, A.H. : *Rajputs*, pp. 31, 32

<sup>5</sup> Nevill, *op. cit.*, p. 188

We know nothing about Raja Lalla or his race except from the inscription which he caused to be cut, and the coins which are still to be found.<sup>1</sup> There we find also a canal, 82 km. long, which appears to be mainly built with the purpose of defending the Bachhil capital because at Dewal we find this canal, which transversely connects two affluents of the river Garra, the Khanaut and the Mala, making a complete circuit round a high mountain on which the ruins of the Bachhil capital are seen. There are remains of several temples, a figure of Varaha or boar avatar of Vishnu, so abundant on coins all over Kheri, also several *argahas* or bases of *lingams* probably broken by the Muslims, *kankar* images of Siva and Debi and lastly an inscription dated Samvat 1049 or A.D. 992.<sup>2</sup>

Then we get a second glimpse of the Bachhils. At this stage they ruled over a little kingdom which was one of the numerous small principalities formed in the east of the Ganga after the decline of Buddhism and absorbed in the territories of the kingdom of Kannauj on the rise of the Rathor power about 1072 A.D. under Raja Jayachand, killed by Muhammad Ghuri in the battle of Mandawar in Etawah.<sup>3</sup>

The inscription at Dewal which is in the Katila character, so called from every letter having a bottom stroke or tail bent to the right, recites that Raja Lalla had cut a canal from Nirmala (pellucid) river, (contracted to Mala, and now called Katni). The inscription says what is apparent enough from the appearance of the channel that it is artificial. The Katni flows about 19 km. west of the Gomati. About 19 km. east of that river is another river called the Kathna, upon whose banks stands Atwa, another later capital of the Bachhils.

The Bachhils were an enterprising race in those days and by constructing two canals about 160 km. in length they contributed more to the material improvement of the region in the 10th century A. D. than any of their successors in the government during the ensuing 9 centuries.<sup>4</sup> They struck coins both in gold and silver, many specimens of which have been found near their old capital on the Kathna.<sup>5</sup>

It is admitted that the Katehriyas succeeded the Bachhils, but the Katehriyas themselves claim that they did not settle in Katehr until Samvat 1218 or A.D. 1174. Up to this date, therefore, the Bachhil rajas may be supposed to have possessed the dominant power in eastern Rohilkhand. Gradually they must have retired before the Katehriyas, until they had lost all their territory to the west of the Deoha or Pilibhit river. Here they made a successful stand, and though later frequently harried by the Muhammadans, they still managed to hold their small territory between the Deoha river and the primeval forests of Pilibhit and Kheri.<sup>6</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Me Minu, *op. cit.*, p. 240

<sup>2</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>3</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>4</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>5</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>6</sup> *Ibid.*

The great clan of Ahbans came early at the time of first Muslim invasion, from Gujarat and settled in the districts of Hardoi, Kheri and Sitapur. They were led by the two brothers, Gopi and Sopi, and Gopi founded Gopamau in Hardoi. His brother Sopi, according to tradition, settled at different places, one of which was Pataunja in Sitapur district, variously ascribed to his eighth descendant Raja Niraj Deo, another was Bhurwara near Gola in this district. They subdued the Pasis, whose dominions included Bhur, Kukra, Mailani, Haidarabad, Paila, and Kasta between the Ul and Kathna rivers.<sup>1</sup>

### MEDIEVAL PERIOD

Till the beginning of the 12th century, the region covered by this district appears to have remained isolated from the spate of Muslim conquests. This may have been due either to its lying off the beaten track and being thickly wooded or inhabited by docile tribesmen, exciting neither the cupidity nor the fanaticism of the invaders. However, tradition ascribes the fort of Khairigarh, popularly known as Qila Ghori Shah, to Shihab-ud-din Ghuri.<sup>2</sup>

The contemporary chronicles do not mention any place in this district that might have been raided by the Muslim armies, which so often ravaged the neighbouring tracts of Katehr, during Iltutmish's reign. It may only be surmised that during the subjugation of Bahraich, and the districts north of the Ghaghra, Iltutmish might well have brought this region under his suzerainty.<sup>3</sup>

The discovery of some coins of Ala-ud-din Khalji (1296-1316) in the district, in 1936, tends, undoubtedly, to show that the expanding power of his arms, made a definite impact on this region. It is also said that Muhammad bin Tughlaq (1325-51), the second ruler of the Tughlaq dynasty, distinguished Khairigarh by constructing a fort there, which tradition ascribes to 1379, when Firuz Tughlaq (1351-88) occupied the throne. May be during his pilgrimage to the shrine of Saiyid Salar at Bahraich, in 1340, Muhammad bin Tughlaq visited the district, but no reference to his stay here, could be found.<sup>4</sup> It is believed that during the unsettled conditions that prevailed in the region under the Kachriyas around 1378, Firuz marched through this region plundering and laying waste a considerable portion of what later came to be the territory of this district. The horrors of the emperor's invasion remained long manifest in the shape of ruined habitations and desolate localities.<sup>5</sup> It was after this visit, perhaps, that Firuz constructed a chain of forts along the banks of the Sarju to defend his possessions from the Kachriya depredations, using as his hunting grounds the extensive and wild forests of Khairigarh.<sup>6</sup> It is believed that the insalubrious climate of the region and the

<sup>1</sup> Nevill, *op. cit.*, p. 138

<sup>2</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 198

<sup>3</sup> Habibullah, A.B.M. : *Foundation of Muslim Rule in India*, p. 104

<sup>4</sup> Elliot, H.M. and Dowson J : *The History of India, As told by its own Historians*, Vol. III, p. 249

<sup>5</sup> Mc Minn : *Gazetteer of the Province of Oudh*, Vol. II, p. 242

<sup>6</sup> Redfern, T.R. : *Report of the Regular Settlement of the Kheri District*, p. 9

difficult position of these forts, forced the emperor to abandon them almost immediately after their completion, whereafter they remained deserted for a considerably long time.<sup>1</sup>

In 1394, when Muhammad Shah was on the throne of Delhi, the district passed into the charge of Malik Sarwar, known as Khwaja-i-Jahan, who obtained the title of Malik-us-Sharq, and held all the country between Kannauj and Bihar.<sup>2</sup> During the early days of Bahlul Lodi, the Afghan soldiers carried out a minor raid against a turbulent village near Nirukhar in Khairabad, and are reported to have acquired an immense booty.<sup>3</sup> Later on, the government of this district appears to have been included in the jagir of Muhammad Khan Farmuli, better known as Kala Pahar, the nephew of Bahlul, who was appointed to the fief of Bahraich in 1478. During his stay in this region, he is believed to have converted a branch of the Ahban Kshattris headed by Mul Shah to Islam and to have confirmed them in the central pargana comprising 989 villages in the district.<sup>4</sup> Apart from these casual references the tract appears for the most part to have remained outside the world known to the Muslim historian till about the accession of Akbar. It is no less surprising that though it lay in the vicinity of Kannauj, a place of frequent scenes of warfare between the Saiyid kings of Delhi and the rulers of Jaunpur, and later between Sher Shah and Humayun, the place finds hardly any mention in the contemporary annals. However, it seems probable that it fell into the hands of the Afghans after the death of Humayun<sup>5</sup> and remained in their possession till 1557-58, the second year of Akbar's reign, when Ali Quli Khan Khan-i-Zaman, who was appointed governor of Sambhal, subdued the Afghans as far as Lucknow and defeated Rukn Khan Nuhani, an eminent Afghan officer.<sup>6</sup>

In the days of Akbar, the district formed part of the province of Avadh, and most of it belonged to the sirkar of Khairabad. While some of the old parganas or *mahals* included in this sirkar in those days retain their names even now; in respect of some others, it is possible to trace the subsequent variations from the existing records, while one of the old *mahals* has disappeared, and its locality cannot be traced.

The sirkar of Khairabad contained twenty-two *mahals*, of which the whole or part of eight, namely, Barwar-Anjana, Bhurwara, Khairigarh, Paila, Kheri, Basrah, Barwa, Basara lay within the present district of Kheri.<sup>7</sup> The first, Barwar-Anjana which took the first part of its name from village Barwar in Pasgawan, and the second part from a word meaning 'unknown' being then covered for the most part by dense forests

<sup>1</sup> Elliot, H.M. and Dowson J., *op. cit.*, pp. 29, 37

<sup>2</sup> Lal, K.S. : *Twilight of the Sultanate*, p. 9

<sup>3</sup> Majumdar, R.C. and Pusalker, A.D. (Ed.): *The History and Culture of the Indian People : The Delhi Sultanate*, p. 152

<sup>4</sup> Redfern, T.R. : *Report of the Regular Settlement of the Kheri District*, p. 9; Nevill, *op. cit.*, p. 140

<sup>5</sup> Nevill, *op. cit.*, p. 140

<sup>6</sup> Abul Fazl : *The Akbarnama*, translated into English by H. Beveridge, (Calcutta, 1912), Vol. II, p. 87

<sup>7</sup> Abul Fazl : *Ain-i-Akbari*, Vol.II (Eng. Trans. By H.S. Jarrett, Calcutta 1949), p. 187

was of a large size, including the modern parganas of Muhamdi, Magdapur, Atwa Piparia, Pasgwan and Aurangabad as well as Alamnagar and Pindarwa in Hardoi. The *Ain-i-Akbari* mentions that during the days of Akbar the *mahal* had a cultivated area of 79,670 bighas, was assessed to a land revenue of 43,25,237 dams, provided a military contingent of 50 horse and 1,000 foot and was held by the Rajputs and Brahmanas.<sup>1</sup>

Adjoining Barwar-Anjana, was the vast *mahal* known as Bhurwara, which appears to have included the parganas of Haidarabad, Bhur and Kukra Mailani. Much of it seems to have been under forest as it had a cultivated area of 8,971 bighas, only, paying a revenue of 48,543 dams. It was held by the Ahbans, a local Rajput clan, who contributed a military force of 2,500 infantry and 50 cavalry.<sup>2</sup> Like all the northern *mahals*, its boundaries were not clearly defined.

Khairigarh was another *mahal* of the same undefined character, which appears to have included Khairigarh, Nighasan and Palia pargana as well as the northern half of Dhaurahra. The *Ain-i-Akbari* states that Khairigarh was one of the most important fortresses in Hindostan, and that there were six other forts of brick and mortar within a short distance; but it is curious that no mention of this stronghold should have been made in contemporary history.<sup>3</sup> The *mahal* of Khairigarh had under cultivation an area of 43,025 bighas and was assessed to a revenue of 18,29,328 dams, and the zamindars were Bais, Bisens, Bachhils and the "Kahnabs." It provided a contingent of 800 cavalry and 1,500 infantry.

In the south of the district was the *mahal* of Paila, an Ahban possession. It seems to have been far smaller in the beginning than the present pargana for it could not have contained Bhurwara which lies in the northern portion. It had a cultivated area of only 982 bighas, assessed at 48,202 dams, and the local levies numbered 200 infantry. Between Paila and Aurangabad, lies the pargana of Kasta, which in Akbar's days appears to have formed part of the great Ahban *mahal* of Nimkhar (Naimi sharanya) in Sitapur.

The *mahal* of Kheri, which had a brick fort, seems to have included modern Srinagar and the greater part of pargana Kheri. It was held by the Bisens and the Janwars who contributed a fighting force of 60 horse and 1,500 foot. It had a cultivated area of 2,60,168 bighas, paying a revenue of 32,50,522 dams. The small *mahal* of Basara lay on the south-western corner of the pargana between the Sarayan and Jamwari and was held by Bachhils who supplied 200 infantry and paid a revenue of 6,76,066 dams on 21,740 bighas of cultivation.

Lastly, there is the *mahal* of Basrah, which still remains untraced, for there is neither any village of this name nor any mention of it could be found in the old records. The *Ain-i-Akbari* does not specify the amount of revenue paid by this *mahal*, possibly due to its being very nominal. It had 60,063 bighas of cultivation, and was owned by various

<sup>1</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 187

<sup>2</sup> Abul Fazl, *op. cit.*, p. 188

<sup>3</sup> *Ibid.*

castes, who provided 300 foot soldiers. However it seems probable that Basrah formed part of Sitapur as the *Settlement Report* of the latter informs us that 209 villages of Basrah with others of Sailuk, Sadrpur and Tambaur were taken to form the new pargana of Kondri in the days of Saadat Khan.<sup>1</sup>

The *mahal* of Firozabad, which lay in the sirkar of Bahraich, appears to be identical with the pargana of Firozabad together with a small portion of Dhauraha. It was held by Tomar Rajputs who provided 200 horse and 7,000 foot. It had a brick fort, a cultivated area of 1,08,601 bighas, and paid a revenue of 19,33,079 dams. It has also been said that the southern portion of Dhauraha belonged to Qila Nawagarh, another *mahal* in sirkar Bahraich, which is now a completely extinct town.

Since the revenue subdivisions of Akbar's days do not correspond exactly with the area covered by the present district, it is not feasible to work out accurately the revenue paid at that time for the area constituting this district. An approximate figure of the revenue then paid might however, be arrived at. If the portion of Nimkhar, be taken as equivalent in value to those parts of Barwar-Anjana which are now in Hardoi and which were mostly wooded in those days, the estimated revenue would amount roughly to Rs 8,12,500, the incidence per acre being Re 0.95, which is a high figure, considering the nature of the district and the value of money at that period.<sup>2</sup>

The history of the reign of Akbar throughout affords but very meagre information or just casual references to this region. However, during the Uzbek rebellion of 1565 under Ali Quli Khan, the Mughal army, having been defeated somewhere in the vicinity of this district, retired to Nimkhar.<sup>3</sup> On May 24, 1565 Akbar himself marched at the head of a large army and arrived at Khairabad.<sup>4</sup> As the negotiations between the rebels and the Mughal officers failed to provide an amicable solution, a strong army under the joint command of Todar Mal and Lashkar Khan was despatched to quell the insurgents. A hotly contested battle took place in the neighbourhood of Khairabad, and, after many vicissitudes, the imperial army obliged the rebel Ali Quli Khan to sue for peace which was granted in 1566.

In 1574, the sirkar of Avadh and Khairabad which then included almost the entire region covered by this district, was granted in fief to Mohammad Quli Khan Barlas.<sup>5</sup> In 1586 it appears to have come under the charge of one Qasim Ali Khan who was granted the jagir of Khairabad, which he continued to hold till 1592.<sup>6</sup>

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- <sup>1</sup> Ferrar, M.L. : *The Regular Settlement and Revised Assessment of the District of Sitapur*, p. 65
- <sup>2</sup> Nevill, *op. cit.*, pp. 142, 143
- <sup>3</sup> Ahmad, Khwaja Nizamuddin : *The Tabqat-i-Akbari* (Eng. Trans. by B. De), p. 308; Tripathi R.P. : *Rise and Fall of the Mughal Empire*, pp. 194, 195
- <sup>4</sup> Tripathi, *op. cit.*, p. 195
- <sup>5</sup> Shams-ud-daulah Shah Nawaz Khan: *Maasir-ul-Umara*, translated into English by H. Beveridge, (Calcutta, 1952), Vol. II, pp. 184-85
- <sup>6</sup> Shams-ud-daulah Shah Nawaz Khan: *Maqasid-ul-Umara*, translated into English by Baini Prasad, (Calcutta, 1952), vol. II, p. 496

Besides these stray references, this tract appears to have figured only sparingly in historical events during the reign of Akbar. In consequence, an account of the rise and fall of the local dynasties, who maintained an almost independent position till the end of the 18th century would seem to constitute the history of the district.

The greatest of the prominent local families was that of the Saiyids. Saiyid Murtaza Khan, governor of Gopamau in Hardoi, had been allowed to retain pargana Kheri rent-free in succession to his father, Nawab Sadr Jahan, of Pihani, the chief Mufti of emperor Akbar, who held a large grant of land in this district from that emperor.<sup>1</sup> Mr. Redfern contends that Saiyid Murtaza Khan was a grandson and not a son of Sadr Jahan, Badr Jahan, another son of the famous Sadr Jahan, held Barwar-Anjana and Kheri, free of rent with the right of receiving revenues without any proprietary rights over the estate. Muqtadi Khan, a grandson of Murtaza Khan, on the death, or as others state, the disgrace of the Bachhil "Beta Chhipi" or Chhipi Khan secured the management of Barwar, including the whole western quarter of the district, and built a strong quadrangular fort on the ruins of the Bachhil stronghold<sup>2</sup> "Beta Chippi" or "blood-stained son," a famous Bachhil chief, who possessed all lands west of the Kathna, much of the Bhur and Khairigarh parganas besides a great part of what is now Shahjahanpur received this endearing epithet from Shahjahan to whom he had rendered services; but he subsequently, fell foul of the emperor Aurangzeb and was killed fighting against Chhatarbhuj, a Chauhan chieftain in his fort at Kanp, after losing to the Saiyids of Pihani the greater portion of the Bachhil domain.<sup>3</sup>

During the reign of Aurangzeb, Saiyid Muqtadi Khan acquired the whole estate of Mitauli by forcing the chief of Mitauli to execute a sale deed after keeping him in prison for twelve years.<sup>4</sup> Later on, by practising fraud upon the Ahban chief of Bhurwara, he contrived to add the whole pargana of Khainabad and Karanpur to his already extensive possessions.<sup>5</sup> He consolidated his territory by building forts at Ahmadnagar, Kheri, Muhamdi, Barkhar, Bel, Siyathū, Muhammadabad and other places. After his death in 1683, his estate devolved upon Saiyid Khurram, who removed the family residence to Aurangabad, a more central place as the estate now included Kheri and Bhurwara also. He died in 1709 and on his death, the overgrown estate was reduced by the severance of Kheri, which was restored to the original zamindars.

Apart from the Bachhils and Saiyids, another family which figured almost with equal prominence in the local history of this district, is the family of the Ahbans. They are reported to have had in their possession, Bhurwara and Nimkhar, constituting a considerable portion of this district, even as far back as in the reign of Akbar. Nimkhar was owned by the Hindu chieftains of that clan and Bhurwara by the descendants

<sup>1</sup> Nevill, H.R., *op. cit.*, p. 143; Redfern, *op. cit.*, p. 9

<sup>2</sup> Nevill, *op. cit.*, p. 143

<sup>3</sup> Redfern, *op. cit.*, p. 9; Nevill, *op. cit.*, p. 144

<sup>4</sup> Nevill, *op. cit.*, p. 143

<sup>5</sup> " " " "

of the converted Mul Sah, till its loss to Muqtadi Khan, as mentioned in the foregoing paragraph. It is very difficult to say as to how the Nim-khar branch lost their possessions. About 1700 A.D. Saiyid Khurram of Aurangabad attacked Dan Sah, an Ahban chief, residing in the village of Badi-gaon in pargana Gopamau of Hardoi, and put all the inhabitants of the village to the sword, except his two grandsons whom he carried as prisoners to Aurangabad. One of them (Bahadur Singh) was released, while the other, Badar Singh embraced Islam under the name of Ibadullah<sup>1</sup>; he married a natural daughter of his patron, and being himself a man of conspicuous ability and leadership, became the general manager of his patron's estate and supreme commander of his troops. Saiyid Khurram died in 1709, and was succeeded by his eldest son Muhammad Ali.

### MODERN PERIOD

Muhammad Ali's succession in 1709, marks the beginning of a long train of family feuds. Saiyid Khurram's second son, Imam-ud-din, by a Hindu wife, claimed a share in the estate. In the ensuing struggle for its possession, Muhammad Ali captured and imprisoned Imam-ud-din's mother. However, she managed to escape and appeared in 1726 before emperor Muhammad Shah (1719-1748) with an appeal for the recognition of her son's rights. In 1728, Imam-ud-din, acquired this estate with the help of Saadat Khan, the nawab wazir of Avadh. His aged mother died in 1729, and Ibadullah, in league with Raja Nawab Rai, a minister of the Saiyid estate, appropriated the entire property. He set up his headquarters at Muhamdi, where he enlarged and strengthened the fort. He was succeeded in 1787 by his son Mahbub Ali Khan, who died in 1742, the estate being entrusted for ten years to his brother, after whom it went to Ghulam Mohammad, a son of Mahbub Ali Khan. During this period, the estate comprising the whole of Muhamdi tahsil, and Kukra, Haidarabad, Bhur and Karanpur remained undivided. Ali Akbar Khan, the last surviving son of Badar Singh, hatched a plot with the support of his Sombansi clansmen and murdered Ghulam Mohammad in 1757 in the fort of Muhamdi. Thereupon the late Raja's mother mobilised her forces and defeated Ali Akbar Khan in the field. This gave rise to an agreement which provided that the latter should manage the estate during his lifetime and that Ghulam Nabi Khan, the younger brother of Ghulam Mohammad, should succeed him. In 1772, Ali Akbar Khan voluntarily relinquished the chiefship which he had held for 15 years, and transferred the property to Ghulam Nabi Khan.

Fresh developments had, meanwhile, taken shape in the Muhamdi estate. The Gaurs of Katesar and Chandra, who had overthrown the Ahbans of Mitali in 1707 and possessed all the tract north of Sitapur, attacked this estate in 1766, defeating Ali Akbar Khan in battle. The latter then appealed for help to Ahmad Khan, the Bangash Nawab of Fairukhabad, who agreed to help him with his forces. In the ensuing battle, fought in the vicinity of Maigalganj, the Gaurs won again, and Ali Akbar retreated towards Pilibhit in the north, where he sought the aid of the Rohillas. The Afghans joined the Raja, a battle being fought near Mailani in the present district. The Gaurs were defeated but they skilfully covered their rear by withdrawing into the adjoining forest. Ali Akbar was replaced by the Rohillas at Muhamdi, Khairigarh,

<sup>1</sup> Nevill, *op. cit.*, p. 145; Redfern, *op. cit.*, p. ■

and Dhaurahra, first siezed by them for themselves were, however, soon abandoned by them. This raid of the Rohillas, however, was long remembered in the district, as they mutilated every image and defiled every temple they met on their march.

The fall of the Saiyids brought no advantage to the Ahbans whom they had displaced. The Ahbans, however, managed to improve their fortune in course of time. Narsingh Deo's descendants continued to hold Mitauli, but they appear to have incurred Aurangzeb's displeasure, and at his instance Mirza Afzal Beg reduced this estate to a few villages in 1670. Much of their land was recovered as, according to a dubious tradition, Man Singh held not only Mitauli, but also Misrikh to the south. This chief took Shuja-ud-daula's part against the British but his assistance was delayed till after the battle of Buxar. His renewed efforts to oppose the British ended in his defeat and death. Four years later, the Gaurs attacked the Ahbans in 1768 and drove them from Maholi and Mitauli. Dal Singh, the head of the clan fled northwards, his clansmen taking shelter in the village of Pasiar, about four miles east of Dhaurahra on the Kauriyala. He sought refuge in the thick forests and remained there for five years, till the Gaurs were defeated by the Raja of Muhamdi in 1773. Thereupon the Ahbans returned and re-established themselves in Mitauli which continued to be held by them till the days of Raja Lone Singh (1857).

The Ahbans of Bhurwara who had embraced Islam held sway over Bhurwara subsequent to the fall of the Saiyids,. They spread themselves over this large pargana, but owing to the absence of a raja among them, they acknowledged the supremacy of their Hindu clansmen of Mitauli who, however, failed to protect them from the predations of their neighbours on the east.

The eastern parganas of this tract were occupied by the Rajput clans who gradually rose to eminence by the eighteenth century. The Bisens of Manjhauli continued to hold sway up to the end of the 18th century beyond the Chauka and probably at an earlier period they were predominant in Kheri and Srinagar as well. In course of time, the parganas of Kheri and Srinagar came to be held by the Saiyids and then by the Gaurs of Laharpur and the Ahbans of Mitauli but gradually the Chauhans established themselves on both sides of the U1. The Bisens remained in undisturbed possession of Dhaurahra and Firozabad, their lands marching with those of the Jangres, the descendants of Chhatarbhoj rulers, who had overthrown the Bachhil chieftain, Chhipi Khan. However, with the adoption of a Sombansi, named Jodha Singh, by Raja Zalim Singh of Bhira, the dominion of the Bisens ended. In 1781, their leader, Raja Qalandar Singh, was killed in the battle with the Jangres at Narupur near Dhaurahra. His son Raghunath Singh, attempted to recover his estates, but failed. The Bisens were finally overthrown with their defeat at Nawapur at the hands of the widow of Jodha Singh. Khairigarhi was held in nominal possession by the Bisens, whose influence was not, however, strongly felt in this remote tract, which passed into the hands of the Banjaras.

During the early days of the Avadh government, the boundaries of the present district do not seem to have been clearly defined, and

the possessor of the northern parganas appears to have been a point of dispute between the Nawab Wazirs and the Rohillas. The influence of the Avadh government was apparently far from effective in these parts, for when in 1801, Rohilkhand was ceded to the British, Khairigarh was also detached from Avadh and included for a time, in the Khutar tahsil of Shahjahanpur.<sup>1</sup> Along with Khairigarh went Palia, which remained a British possession, and was not added to the district till 1865. Khairigarh was not much valued by the British on account of its insalubrious climate, and the police-station established at this place was soon transferred to Palia, and the whole pargana was restored to Avadh in 1815 after the cession of the terai parganas by the treaty of Sigauli in 1815 at the end of the Nepal War. This pargana was then included in the Avadh *chakla* of Khairabad, which it seems, comprised in addition to the whole of the present district, parts of Sitapur and Hardoi too. The old system of *sirkars* and *mahals*, was retained till the days of Asaf-ud-daula who introduced the system of *chaklas*, which continued with modifications down to the time of the annexation of this tract by the British. Muhamdi was at times held separately and at other times jointly with Khairabad. The south eastern parganas of the present district sometimes formed part of the Bahraich *chakla*.

From the end of the eighteenth century, the history of the district is closely linked with the account of the various *chakladars* of Muhamdi and their relations with the local chieftains. One such *chakladar*, Sital Prasad, subjugated the contumacious zamindars in Kheri, Sitapur and Hardoi with great cruelty. In 1778, he reduced the Musalman Sombansis of Muhamdi by seizing Ghulam Nabi Khan for arrears of revenue and sent him as a prisoner to Lucknow where he died after four years. Sital Prasad then turned his attention to the east, where Jodha Singh was fast becoming dangerous; and Jodha Singh too fell before the *nazim*, being killed in single combat at Dhaurahra in 1782. By his death a serious rebellion was crushed, as Jodha Singh had conspired with the Gaurs and the Ahbans and, before this defeat, had overthrown a force under the *nazim's* lieutenant at Tandiaon, capturing 19 guns. From Dhaurahra, the rebels fled towards Khairigarh but were overtaken on the banks of the Suheli and cut to pieces, the rajas of Mitauli and Laharpur being slain.

In 1779, Mansa Ram, a deputy of Sital Prasad, achieved dissolution of the Muhamdi estate by making a settlement with the village proprietors throughout Barwar Anjana and Bhurwara, thus re-establishing the Ahbans, Bachhils and others who had been dispossessed earlier. He brought in a few Kurmis and settled them in Paila, Haidarabad and elsewhere, which in course of time, proved to be of great advantage to the district. However, at the time he created anarchy for some years, paving ultimately the way for the emergence of the talukdars.

In 1804 one Hakim Mahdi Ali Khan, a famous official of the Avadh government, came to Muhamdi, ruling the territory under this district as well as Khairabad till 1821. This period was characterised by a policy of protecting the zamindars, encouraging cultivation, and diligently restraining the ambitious attempts of local rajas. Around this period,

<sup>1</sup> Aitchison, C.U. : *A Collection of Treaties, Engagements and Sanads relating to India and the neighbouring countries*, Vol. II, (Calcutta) p. 101

the influence of Hakim Mahdi attracted invidious attention. He was however, deprived of the charge of Muhamdi and Khairabad, being replaced in these areas by one Param Dhan, who over-bade the former's offer of revenue by three lakhs. The district, which had greatly flourished under Hakim Mahdi Ali Khan now fell upon bad days. Param Dhan restored the Raja of Muhamdi to his nominal rights and began extracting higher and higher rents from the zamindars. The practice, followed by his sixteen successors, impelled the zamindars to look for protection to their hereditary overlords. In consequence all revenue engagements came to be undertaken by a few great chieftains who became its nominal proprietors. In 1821, Rai Singh, the Ahban chief had but a small property, but his son, Khanjan Singh acquired the lease of Kasta, Abgawan and Maholi, as the zamindars by mutual agreement had declined the leases offered by the *chakladars*. His successor Lone Singh increased his estate, "from a rent-roll of forty to one of one hundred and fifty thousand rupers a year."<sup>1</sup> This was accomplished partly as a result of the *chakladars'* action and partly by force. In 1847, Lone Singh attacked his cousin, Munnu Singh of Mitali, and seized his estate. In 1851, he acquired Kukra Mailani from an old widow whom he seized and confined. About the same time, he extended his possessions over Haidarabad, Karanpur, Aliganj and Magdapur, all in like manner. By waging war against the neighbouring Chauhans of Oel (Oyal) and Mahewaganj, he took Paila with its 116 villages from Umrao Singh of Mahewaganj in 1842, and Atwa and Shankarpur from the Oel (Oyal) taluka. These men joined forces with their cousin, the raja of Kaimahra, but though they defeated Lone Singh in battle, they could not recover the lost property. In the end Lone Singh held possession of fifteen hundred villages, though most of this estate had been acquired by recent usurpation. In 1856, he restored 70 villages to the original owners.

The action of the *chakladars* led to the formation of a number of estates in Bhurwara by the Muslim Ahbans between 1821 and 1832; but they possessed neither the strength nor the unity successfully to resist Lone Singh or the Chauhans who expropriated them from large numbers of their villages. The Chauhans took the whole of Srinagar in their possession in 1828, and in 1839 most of Kanpur as well. Similarly beyond the Chauhan, the widow of Raja Jodha Singh of Dhaurahra recovered the management of the pargana which had been held in direct management by the government since the time of Sital Prasad, and at her death in 1833 she had also gained most of Dharmanpur in Bahrach. In 1848 her successor, Arjun Singh, obtained lease of all Dhaurahra which he held till the first struggle for the country's freedom. The other Jangres of Bhur also helped themselves to large independent estates. The Surajbansis of Khairigarh followed in their footsteps and openly defied revenue officials. This state of affairs resulted in large scale depopulation of the tract causing a colossal waste of land. The territory as such was subject to marauding freebooters. The prominent talukdars plundered and harried all those who did not submit to their wishes, the policy being pursued by their smaller counterparts as well. Notorious among these was Bhagwant Singh of Atwa, a descendant of Chhipi Khan.

<sup>1</sup> Sleeman, W. : *A journey through the Kingdom of Oude*, Vol. II, (London, 1858), p. 89

He operated from his base in the Kathua jungles, extending his exploits as far as Sandila in Hardoi, and retreating to the forest when pursued. He continued his forages till 1841, when he was finally hunted down by the Avadh troops<sup>1</sup>.

Sir William Sleeman, the Resident at Lucknow, visited this district in 1850. Muhamdi was then held by an *amil*, named Krishan Sahai, but he was displaced by court influence in favour of Abu Turah Khan, a nephew of Munawar-ud-daula. The constant changes in the administration made the talukdars more secure for none dare attack them now. The local troops maintained in the district, hardly provided a deterrent to the local chieftains and the presence of the Resident hardly acted as a check on the internal strife of the local chiefs.

The annexation of Avadh took place in 1856, the region comprising this district at this stage constituted part of the two districts of Muhamdi and Mallanpur.

Muhamdi was the chief centre of disaffection in northern Avadh, and the big land-holders except those of Khairigarh were bent upon offering determined and prolonged resistance to British rule.

At the time of the outbreak of the freedom struggle in 1857, the garrison of Muhamdi consisted of two companies of the 9th Oudh Irregulars, a regiment that had been raised and commanded by Capt. Patrick Orr, who was now assistant commissioner of Muhamdi, and half a company of military police. Early in May 1857, Thomason, the deputy commissioner of Muhamdi, apprehended an attack from Sitapur and the officers had made arrangements to take up their positions, in case of need, in the Muhamdi fort. Nothing happened till the receipt of the news of the outbreak of the struggle in Shahjahanpur on May 31, when Mr Jenkins and party escaped to Pawayan and wrote to Thomason to arrange for the conveyance of the fugitives to Muhamdi. This he did, and at the same time he and Capt. Orr determined to take measures for their own safety. Mrs. Orr and her child were sent to Mitauli to take refuge with Raja Lone Singh, the Raja, however refused to receive her into his fort and sent her to the small village of Kachauna in the jungles.

Meanwhile, on June 1, 1857, the government treasure was moved into the fort at Muhamdi. The British party arrived here from Shahjahanpur the next day and it was from this time that the troops became noticeably restless. The proximity of Muhamdi to Rohilkhand, the centre of the freedom struggle at this moment, led the British to change their headquarters to Sitapur. On the evening of June 4, the British left Muhamdi and set out towards Barwar. The sepoy had already secured the treasure in the fort and released the prisoners. On the morning of June 5, the party of the British set out for Aurangabad, but when within half a mile of that place, the troops set upon it and all its members were gunned down except Capt. Orr and a drummer. The former was sent to the Raja of Mitauli and then to Kachauna. Shortly

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1 Sleeman, W., *op. cit.*, Vol. II, pp. 56-118

afterwards, a party of British fugitives from Sitapur was also brought to Kachaura. After suffering many privations, the party was sent to Lucknow on October 25, there to be confined at Quisarbagh. On November 16, the men of the party were shot. Some others of the party died, and the women were ultimately rescued in on March 19, and led safely to the camp of Sir James Outram.

Another party of fugitives from Sitapur succeeded in escaping into this district and on being denied refuge by the raja of Oel (Oyal), it made for the fort of the Raikwar raja of Dhaurahra, from where its members were able to communicate with the British party at Kachaura. They remained in confinement till September 4, 1857, when they were escorted to Lucknow by a force belonging to the *nazim* of Khairabad. During their journey, apprehending treachery, some of them escaped, but others were taken to Lucknow where four of them were murdered. Following the outbreak at Sitapur, discontent was rife at Mullanpur, and the British authorities here too were forced to leave. After suffering severe privations, some of them escaped to Nepal across the Mohan river. They were generally received kindly by the authorities of Nepal, but disease greatly reduced their number, and only Captain Hearsey appears to have at last escaped to safety at Naini Tal. Quite obviously, the district had passed out of the hands of the British, and had come under the control of the local leaders at an early date. The talukdars generally abstained from sending troops to support the British army at Lucknow, openly supporting the liberation movement, though most of their efforts were directed towards strengthening their own positions. After the fall of Faizabad, Maulvi Ahmad Shah and other freedom fighters migrated to the North of Avadh. Meanwhile on March 19, 1858, information was received by the British authorities, regarding the presence of Nana Saheb Peshwa at Aliganj, across the Ramganga, about fourteen miles off at Semri in pargana Dhaurahra, taluk Nighasan. The nationalist forces were reported to be amassed here in sizeable strength.<sup>1</sup>

The scope of military operations was provided in the district after the fall of Lucknow. On April 30, 1858, Colin Campbell, reached Shahjahanpur from Fatehgarh and found the place, earlier held by the Maulvi, evacuated. Learning about the advance of the British troops, he had escaped and set up his headquarters at Muhamdi. On the departure of the main British force for Bareilly, the Maulvi, whose army had been strengthened by the troops of Raja Lone Singh, decided to attack the small garrison at Shahjahanpur and marched to this place from Muhamdi on May 2, 1858, and closely besieged the detachment which was relieved on the May 11. The Maulvi made another unsuccessful attack on the detachment on May 15. The British force under Colin Campbell marched into the neighbouring district of Shahjahanpur, where once again the Maulvi eluded them. The British advance was therupon directed towards Muhamdi, which at this stage was found deserted and destroyed. Since little scope for military operations existed at this stage, the area comprising the present district was under the general control of the local fighters for freedom under the guidance

of Maulvi Ahmad Shah till he was murdered on June 5, 1858. By June, 1858, he had established a thana at Puranpur in district Pilibhit. The reports received by the British by August, 1858, confirmed the presence of freedom fighters at places like Gola in Muhamdi district where they were engaged in collecting revenue from the local inhabitants<sup>1</sup>.

Even the loss of a capable leader like Maulvi Ahmad Shah did little to dampen the enthusiasm of the people of this area. On October 17, 1858, a large British contingent proceeded to Muhamdi. On its first encampment *enroute* at Pasgawan, it was attacked on the rear by the freedom fighters, but the body of Multan Horse deployed by the British, caused great damage to their ranks. Reinforcements of British troops arrived at Aurangabad through Rasulpur the next day. Surplus stocks of government property were subsequently shifted from Aurangabad to Mitali, which was then heavily garrisoned by British troops. Raja Lote Singh of Mitali however persisted in making unremitting efforts to crush British power in spite of the heavy odds faced by him. The stout resistance offered by him to the British led to the storming of his fort and of the town of Mitali, which were captured by the British on November 8, 1858.<sup>2</sup>

A gradual decline of resistance to the British was now in evidence, one of the last formidable opponents to the British in this area being Raja Indra Vikram Singh of Dhaurahra. He too was arrested soon after the fall of Mitali, his estate being confiscated and bestowed on a British officer. It was ultimately acquired by the raja of Kapurthala. Raja Indra Vikram Singh subsequently died in British captivity.

The freedom struggle of 1857 in this district thus ended in 1858.<sup>3</sup> The most active centre of unrest was Muhamdi in the present day district. The restoration of British authority in this area in November, 1858, was marked by the appointment of W.C. Wood as the deputy commissioner of this district. He shifted his headquarters from Muhamdi to Lakhimpur. The subsequent growth of the district as an administrative unit was not characterised by any outstanding event, except the general administrative gearing up by the British here, as elsewhere, in the country, in the wake of the re-establishment of their authority. Kheri as a district was primarily used as a game preserve by its British rulers who declared it a backward area. However, general administrative measures, combined with improved land revenue systems involving settlements were taken up here too till the closing years of the nineteenth century, when considerable political awakening among the people of the district, as indeed in the country as a whole, commenced making itself felt.

With the initiation of the non-co-operation movement by Gandhiji in 1920, popular enthusiasm reached a new pitch. The impulse was accelerated by the appeal made by Lokmanya Tilak to the people for the attainment of freedom. The number of members enrolled by the Congress in this district in 1920, was 8,000, of whom 2,500 were volunteers. They formed as many as 50 panchayats besides a number of local committees. The call of the *charkha* (spinning wheel), the vogue

<sup>1</sup> Rizvi, S.A.A., *Freedom Struggle in U.P.*, Vol. V, p. 562

<sup>2</sup> *Sectantrata Singram Ke Samik-Kheri*, (Sat. Deptt.) p. 5.

<sup>3</sup> *Ibid.*

of *khadi* and the strong revival of the nationalist spirit all made their appearance along with a strong plea for Hindu-Muslim amity. The subscription raised in response to Tilak's plea for a 'Swarajya Fund' in the district at the period amounted to Rs 40,000.

On August 26, 1920, a group of fanatics, inspired by the Khilafat movement, murdered the district magistrate, Willoughby, on the occasion of Bakr-Id. They were soon after apprehended by the police and tried. The main accused, Nasiruddin, pleaded guilty and was sentenced along with two others to death.

At about the same time, a big Congress unit was established at village Dhaurahra of tahsil Nighasan under one Kshetrapal Singh. The operational zone of this unit extended from Isanagar, Husainpur and Katauli to Karauna Kheswahi and Bairiya. The arrest of one Chandra Shekhar Ojha, a Congress worker with some Congress volunteers at Dhaurahra greatly excited the public. The police constables escorting Ojha to Kheri were intercepted, and given a rousing reception by the populace who entreated them to cooperate in the cause of the freedom struggle. Subsequent events roused public sentiment to such a pitch that the volunteers had to be released without bail.

On the next day the report of Ojha's arrest was conveyed by a different route to Lakhimpur. However, the volunteers were given a standing ovation at Karonha. The people at Dhaurahra turned out in large numbers to greet them. A big public procession was organised which, on arrival at Lakhimpur, was blocked by district authorities and 14 volunteers were put under arrest. Their detention triggered an agitation among the people of the district. It was sought to be suppressed by the government by making a large number of arrests at Dhaurahra, Isanagar, Bairiya, Karauna, Singahi and Palia, as many as 72 people in all being arrested and punished.

The wave of patriotism which started in tahsil Nighasan, now encompassed the neighbouring area of Lakhimpur town. Bhira, Bijuwa, Muda Sawaran, Aliganj, Srinagar, Tenduwa, Baraula, Phul Behar and many other villages now came under the spell of the freedom movement. An important leader was Kunwar Pratap Singh of Bijuwa. Having failed by their repressive measures to crush the national upsurge, the British summoned a body of Sikh horsemen to Bijuwa. They were, however, subjected to the severest form of boycott, causing them great hardships. The pressure of public opinion forced them to withdraw after 3 days, a special police force being deployed for a period of six months in the village. The expenses for its maintenance were realised from all the residents of the village as a punitive measure. A prominent freedom fighter active in this area at the time was Harnam Sunder Lal of Lakhimpur.

Congress volunteers were active throughout the district, and established a strong unit to resist British might. The total number of arrests in the district came to 182, the terms of confinement inflicted on the Congressmen ranging from 7 days to 4 1/2 years. The total amount of

fines imposed was a sum of Rs 16.325. Nighasan was the most notable centre of unrest, and was, therefore, subjected to severe repression.

The district was visited by Bansidhar Mishra in 1926. He appealed to all political sufferers to join and strengthen the Congress. It was largely due to his efforts that when the Simon Commission visited India in 1928, the district prominently staged its boycott.

The first district conference of the Congress party was held under the chairmanship of Jawaharlal Nehru on September 28, 29 and 30, 1928 on Willoughby grounds, Kheri. Among the invitees were Shiv Prasad Gupta, Dr K.N. Katju and Mohan Lal Saxena.

Several big demonstrations were organised in the district in 1928, to register protest in connection with the demise of Lala Lajpat Rai. Lala Lajpat Rai day was celebrated on November 29. The first Kisan Sammelan in the district was held at Gola on February 13 and 14, 1929 with Ganesh Shanker Vidyarthi in the chair. Among the delegates were Baba Raghab Das and Shri Krishna Datt Paliwal. Mahatma Gandhi visited the district on November 12, 1929 when subscription amounting to Rs 8,146 was raised for the Harijan Fund. He was accompanied on this occasion, among others by Kasturba Gandhi, Meera Bahen, Acharya Kripal ni and Pyarelal.

When the civil disobedience movement was launched by Mahatma Gandhi, the district again swung into conspicuous action. The first lively glimpse of public enthusiasm against the British rule was witnessed in the strong surge of public feeling on the arrest of Jawaharlal Nehru when a strike was organised on an extensive scale in the district on April 15, 1930. This was followed by a number of meetings. Picketting of shops retailing foreign cloth was undertaken and garments made of such cloth were committed to the flames on a massive scale. The cloth dealers decided to restrict the receipt of further stocks of foreign cloth with effect from May 7, 1930. On July 14 foreign goods stocked in shops were sealed by the Congress. This was followed by the boycott of imported sugar and cigarettes with effect from August 1, 1930. Repressive measures, taken by the authorities in the district, prevented successful progress of the Salt Satyagraha, which was substituted here by a Jungle Satyagraha. The auctioning of forests was decided to be prevented. The dates notified for these auctions were April 28, 29 and 30. The tremendous picketing enforced on these dates, however, forced the authorities to postpone the auctions to July when again picketing was resorted to and led to many arrests. The date for the auction was postponed further to August 14 when again close picketing was enforced from August 14 to 18, 1930. This led to a severe lathi charge on the volunteers, and a number of strikes in the district. The total arrests made numbered 75, and 19 persons were sentenced to terms of confinement ranging from 6 to 9 months. The Congress secretary, Bansidhar Mishra, was sentenced to imprisonment for a period of 4 months. A boycott week was enthusiastically celebrated from August 25, Kedar Nath Saxena, the new Congress secretary was arrested on November 18 and sentenced to a one year term of imprisonment.

The authorities had, by January, 1931, adopted a very stiff attitude towards the freedom fighters, a procession including women and children being subjected to a lathi charge by the police on January 6, 1931. The next day a number of volunteers were arrested from the Congress office and Swarajya Ashram under Section 109 Cr. P.C. Despite much persuasion by the government officers, the shop-keepers refused to give up the boycott of foreign goods.

On January 7, 1931, a bomb explosion in an *arhar* field near Aurangabad caused injuries to some people. This was registered as the Kheri Bomb Case, and 12 people being arrested. Of these, 9 were sentenced to terms of imprisonment ranging from 2 years to 6 years. Though the incident had little connection with the revolutionary party, it was symptomatic of the prevalent popular disaffection.

All the Congress committees of the district were declared illegal bodies on January 13, 1931. A number of persons connected with the Congress were prosecuted under various sections of the Criminal Procedure Code and the Police Act and sentenced to various terms of imprisonment extending from six months to one year. The boycott of foreign goods reinforced the will to patronise country-made goods (*swadeshi*), resulting in the formation of the Lakhimpur Kheri Swadeshi Sangh on February 2, 1931. Nearly all political conference held in the district during 1931, were marked by the making of public declarations to adopt *swadeshi* goods.

Following the conclusion of the Gandhi-Irwin Pact, all political prisoners of the district were released, the occasion being marked by the taking out of big processions at Kheri and illuminations. With the postponement of the civil disobedience movement, the need for the formation of new Congress committees, and the promotion of the use of *swadeshi* goods received greater emphasis. To assess the situation, the second District Congress Conference was held at Muhamdi on April 25 and 26, 1931. Some eminent delegates to this conference were Purushottam Das Tandon and Krishna Kant Malaviya.

One of the resolutions backed by the signatures of no less than 16,000 farmers and passed at the Conference was the exemption of small farmers from payment of rent. The move succeeded in gaining a marginal reduction of rent. The Congress established a close liaison with the farmers of the district forming committees for looking into their problems.

The successful propagation of the Congress objectives led to the celebration of *jhanda dinas* (flag day) on August 30, 1931, at no less than 15 places in the district. For the next few months political activity in the district continued to register an increase in its tempo, a number of conferences being held in October and November. The Second Lakhimpur Conference was held at Saunkhia on December 5 and 6, 1931, and was attended by a large number of delegates from outside the district. The third political conference of Lakhimpur taluk was held at Pipariyaganga on December 30 and 31, with one Sita Devi in the chair. Proposals for the welfare of the peasants, and abolition of certain

illegal levies and exactions e.g. *nazrana* and *begaar*, were made. The situation by the end of 1931 had become embarrassing for the British and a spell of repressions followed. The first locality to be effected by this trend was Palia.

Orders under section 144 Cr. P.C. were promulgated throughout the district from January 4 to March 2, 1932, banning public meetings in support of the arrested Congress volunteers. The district Congress committee was dissolved on January 4, 1932, Ram Aasre Shukla being appointed the first director. Inspite of the fact that orders under section 144 Cr. P.C. banning public meetings and processions were in force the arrests of Mahatma Gandhi and Sardar Patel occasioned hartals at Lakhimpur and Gola on January 6, 1932. The arrests of political workers continued vigorously after January 7, 1932, and a national week was observed at Kheri from April 6 to 13, 1932. A special session of the Congress held at Delhi about this time, was declared illegal and many of the visiting delegates were arrested.

The visit of the provincial governor to the district occasioned a half-day hartal on February 13, 1932. As many as 108 persons courted arrest during the civil disobedience movement of 1932-33 and no less than 79 of them were convicted under the penal sections of various acts. The movement lasted till June 6, 1934, whereafter the ban on the Congress committee was lifted. The district Congress committee office reopened on June 19, 1934, and its activities were resumed with fresh vigour. The prevailing political situation was highlighted by Chandra Bhanu Gupta during his visit to the district on July 18, 1932. This was followed by an impressive speech by Damodar Swarup Seth on July 26, 1932. About two and a half years later, on February 3 and 4, 1935, a district conference was held. It was presided over by Uma Nehru. Shortly after this, on January 7 and 8, 1935, a conference was held at Dhaurahra, with Ganga Prasad in the chair. The growing contact of the Congress with the peasants resulted in the holding of a Kisan Sammelan at Muhamdi on March 27 and 28, 1935. During the elections to local bodies held in the district about this time, 3 out of 5 contesting Congress candidates and 10 out of 18 contesting Congress candidates were elected to the municipal and district boards of Kheri, respectively. The year 1936 is described as the year of preparations for the first general election for the local legislature held in the following year. On June 20 and 21, the third tahsil conference of Muhamdi was held at Mitauli. The district was visited by Jawaharlal Nehru during the last week of November. Rajendra Prasad visited the district in this connection on January 4, 1937, and addressed public rallies at Lakhimpur and Gola Gokaran-nath. Polling took place on Febarary 8, and both the Congress candidates won the battle of the ballot. An important landmark of 1937 was the holding of the 4th district political conference at Sisawan Kalan on May 4 and 5, over which Acharya Narendra Deva presided. Some eminent delegates to this meet were Sampurnanand, Chandra Bhanu Gupta, Damodar Swarup Seth and Gangadhar Mishra. The third political conference of Muhamdi tahsil was held at Babauna on February 15 and 16, 1938. On March 30, 1936, the district was visited by Govind Ballabh Pant and Rafi Ahmad Kidwai on the occasion of the swadeshi exhibition

held at Gola under the auspices of the district board. A district political conference was held at Lakhimpur on April 3 and 4, 1938.

A Kisan Diwas was celebrated on April 17, 1938 in most of the villages of the district. The Avadh Kisan Sammelan organised at Suhela on May 14 and 15, 1938 was attended, among others, by Sampurnanand, Damodar Swarup Seth, Chandra Bhanu Gupta, and Bhupendra Nath Sanyal. The fourth Kisan Sammelan of Lakhimpur tahsil was held at Pipariyaganga on November 12 and 13, 1938.

The first district *yuvak sammelan* was held at Lakhimpur on January 25, 1939, under the chairmanship of Manmath Nath Gupta. The *sveatantrata diwas* was celebrated with great enthusiasm in the district on February 11 and 12, 1938, and the Kher district conference was held at Singahi.

The efforts of the Congress volunteers to help the peasants excited the wrath of the zamindars who now resorted to violence. There were incidents of attacks on peasants during 1939-40.

On February 22, 1940, Subhash Chandra Bose went to Lakhimpur and his visit evoked tremendous public enthusiasm. The introduction of the technique of individual satyagraha by Gandhiji evoked ready response in the district, the person to offer such satyagraha being Khushwaqt Rai alias Bhaiya Lal. The number of persons sent to prison in this context was 250. In 1941, with the Japanese occupation of Singapore, a large number of satyagrahis were released all over the country.

At a meeting of the All India Congress Committee held at Bombay on August 8, 1942, a resolution calling upon the Britishers to "Quit India" was passed. As a consequence all district political Congress leaders were sent to jail on or immediately after that date. During this agitation Lakhimpur, Oel, Gola, Muhamdi, were prominent centres of unrest. The agitated students of the Y.D. College, Oel, attacked the police-station, disrupted communication lines and damaged the railway tracks. There were similar incidents in many other parts of the district.

Bhikampur had contributed liberally in producing volunteers for the individual *stayagraha* launched earlier. During the "Quit India" agitation, Raj Narain Mishra, in collaboration with his elder brother, Babu Ram, and others, belonging to this place, decided to oppose the might of the British empire with armed resistance and a big supply of arms was received by them.

On August 14, 1942, Raj Narain Misra and two of his colleagues approached a *ziledar* of Mahmudabad for the supply of guns. The latter turned down the request with a show of force. He was promptly done away with. About 18 inhabitants of this village were charged with the commission of this crime, but they could not be arrested owing to the co-operation extended by the villagers to the freedom fighters.

On August 18, 1942, a detachment of the army was sent to this area to restore peace and order but the populace refused to be cowed

down and abandoning their villages, fled to the adjoining jungles. Finally in an encounter at Kukuha, (between Mailani and Gola), the government forces got the better of the freedom fighters, and the district contributed its first martyr, Rampa Teli, in the cause of the country's independence. Repressive measures were taken with renewed strength, and Raj Narain Misra of Bhikampur was declared an absconder. A award of Rs 500 was announced for his arrest or capture—living or dead. Sisawan, Madiha, Panchdewra, and Mitauli were some of the notorious centres of repression—the inhabitants here being subjected to gross humiliation and torture.

The wave of repression having spent itself, the district collector organised a meeting with the support of those loyal to the government, at the Willoughby Memorial Hall, Lakhimpur, but only patriotic songs were recited and anti-British slogans raised on the occasion.

The underground Congress workers organised a camp on the Nepal border between Dudhwa and Gauriphanta, where people were instructed in the use of fire-arms and in the methods of guerilla warfare.

Dwarika Prasad of Kukahapur (Kukuha) was charged with treason against the State. His classic statement in court, moved the judge to request him to amend it which he refused to do so. He was awarded the capital punishment which was commuted to life imprisonment by the high court. Having been declared an absconder and an outlaw, another freedom fighter, Raj Narain, left this district and toured the country *incognito*. He was arrested at Bombay during Gandhiji's historic fast at the Agha Khan's palace, and sentenced to six months' imprisonment, which he underwent under a false name and address. He returned to U.P. in 1943 on the expiry of the sentence and visited many places like Hardwar, Rishikesh and Kashi, finally going to stay at the Gandhi Asharama at Meerut. There he disclosed his identity and was imprisoned, and brought back to Lakhimpur where he was tried and sentenced, to death on June 27, 1944. No mercy appeals or appeals to the Privy Council were allowed. He was ultimately brought to the Lucknow district jail where he was executed on December 9, 1944. This aroused intense popular indignation which manifested itself in an unusually big strike both at Lucknow and Lakhimpur. It was also the first in the province during the movement of 1942.

The district contributed as many as 326 freedom fighters during the movement of 1942, of whom 125 underwent imprisonment in 12 State prisons. Their terms of imprisonment ranged from 5 to 38 years. Warrants of arrest were issued against 15 members of the Congress party. Following the establishment of Congress rule, all of them were released and the warrants were withdrawn. A committee to establish a suitable memorial to Raj Narain Misra was formed in April, 1945. This body set up the Raj Narain Memorial next to the Willoughby Memorial at Lakhimpur.

The memorial comprises a spacious reading-room, hung with life-sized portraits of nearly all eminent freedom fighters. It stands as an eloquent testimony to the sacrifices made by the freedom fighters of Kheri. The persistent struggle waged by the people of India was finally rewarded with the attainment of India's independence on August 15, 1947.

## CHAPTER III

### PEOPLE

#### POPULATION

##### **Growth of Population**

At the first enumeration of the people in 1869, the district had a population of 7,38,089 persons, with a density of 242 persons per sq. mile. There were 1,582 villages and towns; two Muhamdi and Lakhimpur with over 5,000 inhabitants each, 23 having more than 2,000 and less than 5,000 residents and 123 recording a population exceeding 1,000 persons, each.

At the next census in 1881, the total number of persons grew to 8,81,922, and the density rose to 278 persons per sq. mile. Villages and towns numbered 1,655; of these five Muhamdi, Lakhimpur, Kheri, Oel and Dhaurahra had more than 5,000 inhabitants each, 41 with more than 2,000 and less than 5,000 inhabitants each and 184 with more than 1,000 and less than 2,000 people each. At the census of 1891, the population was found to be 9,03,695 with a higher density of 304.7 persons per sq. mile. The number of villages and towns rose to 1,711 with six, Muhamdi, Lakhimpur, Kheri, Oel, Dhaurahra and Singahi Bhadaura claiming more than 5,000 residents each, 40 reporting a population between 2,000 and 5,000 inhabitants each and 174 between 1,000 and 2,000 inhabitants each. The rapid rate of population growth which had characterised this period was not visible at the 1901 census. The people numbered 9,05,138 and the average density was found to be 305.5 persons to the sq. mile. The decennial growth of population and its variation in the district during the period 1901-1971 are tabled below :

Year	Persons	Decade variation	Percentage decade variation	Percentage	
				Males	Females
1901	9,05,158	—	—	4,78,639	4,26,519
1911	9,59,225	+ 54,067	+ 5.97	5,11,521	4,47,704
1921	9,18,496	- 45,729	+ 4.77	4,85,187	4,28,309
1931	9,44,502	+ 31,006	+ 3.89	5,04,676	4,39,826
1941	10,24,051	+ 79,549	+ 8.42	5,47,863	4,76,188
1951	10,58,378	+ 34,322	+ 3.85	5,72,105	4,86,268
1961	12,58,433	+ 2,00,060	+ 18.90	6,70,011	5,79,422
1971	14,86,590	+ 2,28,157	+ 18.13	8,15,001	6,71,586

Except when the population recorded a fall during the decade 1911-1921, due to epidemics, like influenza and migration of the people, there had been a continuous rise in numbers. The lowest increase of 3.35 per cent was registered in the decade, 1941-1951 and the highest, 18.90 per cent in the decade of 1951-1961.

On July 1, 1971, the district with an area of 7,691 sq. km. and 14,86,590 people occupied the 5th and the 33rd positions in regard to size and population respectively among the districts of the State. A detailed list of area and population figures of 1961 and 1971 is given at the end of the chapter in Statement I.

The density of population was found to be 193 persons per sq. km. as against 300 persons per sq. km. of the State. The most densely populated tahsil was Muhamdi with 235 followed by Lakhimpur with 212 and Nighasan with 140 persons per sq. km. The rural density of population was 182 and the urban 2,760 persons per sq. km. The highest rural density was 217 persons per sq. km. In tahsil Muhamdi, while the highest density was 8,803 persons per sq. km. in the urban areas of tahsil Lakhimpur.

The proportion of females per 1,000 males in 1901, 1911, 1921, 1931, 1941, 1951 and 1961 was 893, 875, 883, 872, 869, 850 and 853 respectively.

Area-wise proportion of females per 1,000 males in 1971 is indicated below :

Year	State	District	Tahsil										
			Rural				Urban						
			Muhamdi	Lakhimpur	Nighasan	Kheri	Lakhimpur	Muhamdi	Gola Gokaran-nath				
1971			879	824	825	815	829	820	815	884	821	785	863

#### Population by Tahsils and Towns

At the census of the 1971, the district had the three tahsils of Lakhimpur, Nighasan and Muhamdi and four towns of Lakhimpur, Kheri, Gola Gokaran-nath and Muhamdi. The tahsilwise distribution of population and numbers of development blocks villages and towns are given below :

Tahsil	No. of development blocks	Villages		Towns	Population		
		Uninhabited	Inhabited		Persons	Males	Females
Nighasan	5	24	396	—	4,59,127	2,52,928	2,06,199
Lakhimpur rural	6	33	657	—	5,38,823	2,94,572	2,44,251
Lakhimpur M.B.	—	—	—	1	43,752	24,023	19,729
Kheri T.A.	—	—	—	1	12,006	6,372	5,634
Muhamdi rural	4	44	617	—	3,96,297	2,16,622	1,79,675
Gola Gokarannath M.B.	—	—	—	1	21,677	12,496	9,181
Muhamdi M.B.	—	—	—	1	14,908	7,891	6,917
Total	15	101	1,670	4	14,86,590	8,15,004	6,71,586

### Immigration and Emigration

According to the 1961 census report, about 89.6 per cent of the residents were born in the district, 8.6 per cent in other districts of the State, 1.0 per cent in other parts of India and 0.7 per cent in other countries. Among those born outside India 6,852 had births in Nepal, 2,225 in Pakistan, 214 in China, 4 in United States of America and 34 in other countries. The largest number of immigrants is from Nepal which lies on the north-eastern borders of the district. Most of the immigrants from Pakistan arrived as displaced persons. The duration of residence in the district of 54.1 per cent of these immigrants was over ten years. About 92.5 per cent of them were from rural and the remaining 7.5 per cent from urban areas, 24.8 per cent being males. Of the immigrants from neighbouring States, 11,178 persons (males 6,781 and females 4,397) came from Punjab, 707 persons (males 564 and females 143) from Rajasthan and 620 persons (males 346 and females 274) from Bihar. The number of immigrants from other districts of the State was 1,08,664 (males 39,844 and females 68,820).

Some people must have gone out of the district to other parts of the State or country or abroad for education, employment, trade or commerce. Brides generally have to leave their homes after marriage. Their number is not known. The higher rate of female immigration may be largely due to men contracting marriages with women living outside the district.

### Displaced Persons

Of 2,815 displaced persons from Pakistan who arrived in the district in 1947-48, 1,286 settled down in the urban and 1,029 in the rural parts. By 1961, their number had come down to 2,225 as a few had left the district to settle elsewhere.

### Distribution of Population

The distribution of rural population in 1971, among villages of different sizes was as under :

Range of population	No. of villages	Persons	Males	Females	Percentage of the rural po- pulation of the district
Less than 200	261	28,885	16,080	12,805	2.07
200—499	474	1,64,066	90,178	73,888	11.77
500—999	487	3,56,301	1,95,610	1,60,691	25.56
1000—1999	335	4,36,117	2,19,527	2,06,590	32.71
2000—4999	94	2,67,284	1,46,388	1,20,896	19.17
5000—9999	19	1,21,591	66,839	55,252	8.72
10,000 and above	—	—	—	—	—
Total	1,670	13,94,247	7,64,122	6,30,125	100.00

### Language

A list of languages spoken as mother-tongues in 1971 together with the numbers of their patrons is given below :

Language	Number of persons speaking		
	Persons	Males	Females
Hindi	12,88,425	7,07,267	5,81,158
Urdu	1,45,562	78,431	67,181
Punjabi	30,456	16,971	18,485
Avadhi	12,975	7,492	5,483
Tharu	4,661	2,482	2,179
Bhojpuri	1,028	607	421
Gurmukhi	1,014	547	467
Bengali	665	324	341
Rajasthani	447	280	167
Telugu	362	90	272
Banjari	342	184	158
Gorkhali/Nepali	249	122	127
Sindhi	139	71	68
Braj Bhasha	80	38	42
Pahari	68	40	28
Marwari	34	22	12
Magahi/Magadhi	17	—	—
Gujarati	16	7	9
Marathi	13	8	5
English	11	4	7
Garhwali	—	—	9
Arabic/Arbi	7	—	4
Malayalam	5	—	3
Maithili	2	—	—
Assamese	2	2	—
Kumauni	1	1	—
Total	14,86,590	8,15,004	6,71,586

Of these twenty-six languages, Hindi has been returned as the mother-tongue of 86.67 per cent people. Urdu was spoken by 9.79 per cent persons and the Avadhi Bhojpuri, Punjabi, Tharu, and Bengali and other languages shared the rest. Avadhi is one of the three main lects of eastern Hindi and belongs to the mediate group of Indo-Aryan dialanguages. Tharu and their allied tribes speak their own Tharu language which is nothing but a form or dialect of Hindi and bears traces of the influence of several other forms, such as Kannaujia, Purbi, Rajasthani and Braj Bhasha.

### Script

The main scripts in use are the Devanagri for Hindi and allied languages and the Persian for Urdu.

### RELIGION AND CASTE

The 1971 census reported the following religionwise distribution of population :

Religion	Followers	Males	Females	Percentage
Hinduism	11,97,658	6,58,554	5,39,104	80.56
Islam	2,56,300	1,38,271	1,18,029	17.24
Sikhism	27,868	15,531	12,337	1.88
Christianity	8,653	2,041	1,612	0.25
Buddhism	917	501	416	0.06
Jainism	173	93	80	0.01
Religion not stated	21	13	8	—
Total	14,86,590	8,15,004	6,11,586	100

### Principal Communities

**Hindus**—Of the total population of the district 80.56 per cent are Hindus. The pattern of society among the Hindus of this district, as elsewhere, is based on the traditional four-fold caste system, the four principal castes being the Brahmana, the Kshatriya, the Vaish and the Shudra, each being subdivided into a number of sub-castes. There are some other groups which have also acquired the status of independent castes such as the Kayastha, the Khattri, etc., which are again subdivided into sub-castes. With the spread of education and the impact of new ideas, the caste system is gradually losing its rigidity. Members of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes numbered 4,02,235 and 18,254 respectively in 1971. Their tahsilwise break-up is given below :

Tahsil	Scheduled Castes			Scheduled Tribes		
	Total	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females
Nighasan	1,01,091	54,035	46,956	17,716	9,174	8,542
Lakhimpur	1,74,303	94,223	80,080	129	71	58
Muhamudi	1,26,931	68,763	58,168	409	225	184
<b>Total</b>	<b>4,02,235</b>	<b>2,17,051</b>	<b>1,85,184</b>	<b>18,254</b>	<b>9,470</b>	<b>8,784</b>

The Tharus in Khairiganj are peculiar to the submontane tracts ; they are cultivators by profession and are able to withstand the malarial climate of the terai better than other races. With their short stature, broad facial features, snubbed nose and pale complexion as well as many peculiar habits and customs, the Tharus have been the subject of much speculation in so far as their racial origin and the derivation of their name are concerned. It cannot be said with any amount of certainty whether they are in extraction Taruman, Kirata, Dravidian, or are descended from some other pre-Aryan indigenous stock, or that they came from the hills above or from the plains. One tradition says that they fled from Hastinapur after the destruction of the Kauravas in the Mahabharata war. Another local tradition says that in the remote past when the raja of a big kingdom in the neighbourhood was defeated and slain by an invader, his panis and other princesses fled into the jungles to escape falling into the hands of the foe. Their syees and Chamars accompanied them. The issues of these royal ladies by the Chamars came to be known as the Tharus. They prefer to live in forests and are never happy when separated from their forests, swamps and rivers. They are simple, cheery people, somewhat indolent and averse to serve others. They are great rice cultivators, hunters and fish-eaters. In short, they are deeply imbued with the spirit of the jungle which is to them their home. Tharus are divided into a number of indogamous sects, the majority of Lakhimpur Tharus are Ramas. As, in popular belief, they claim a royal descent on the female side, the women of the household occupy a far higher position than the men—a Tharu wife will not eat with her husband whom she appears to regard as her social inferior.

**Muslims**—At the 1971 census 2,56,300 people (1,38,271 males 1,18,029 females) were found professing Islam. They were almost evenly distributed throughout the entire district. The majority of the Muslims belong to the Sunni sect. Among other divisions were the Nais, Darzis, Fiqis, Gaddis, Manihars, Qassabs, Dhobis, Telis, Bhingis, Mughlis and Mewatis, Gaosis, Kanjars, Bhats, Banjares, Rangrezes, and Lohars.

**Sikhs**—In 1971, there were 27,868 Sikhs in the district, 15,531 men and 12,337 women. They are mostly immigrants from Pakistan. The Sikhs are one of the many reformed sects of Hinduism which have risen from time to time.

**Christians**—There were 3,653 Christians in 1971, (2,041 males and 1,612 females). Generally, they belong to the Roman Catholic or Protestant denominations.

**Jains**—The Jains numbered 173 (males 93 and females 80), in 1971.

**Buddhists**—In 1971, the number of Buddhists in the district was 917, (501 males and 416 females).

### Religious Beliefs and Practices

**Of Hindus**—The Hindus entertain here as elsewhere, many beliefs and practices, ranging from the transcendental mysticism of the monotheist to an elaborate polytheism. They believe in complete freedom of thought and action so far as religious beliefs and practices are concerned. This has naturally given rise to many philosophical schools and sects : an individual is free to join the one which appeals to him the most or none. The most unique feature of the Hindu religion is belief in the transmigration of soul and rebirth after death in higher or lower forms of existence, according to the quality of actions, including both merit and demerit, in life. Some also believe in ghosts, spirits, minor godlings and diverse superstitions. The principal deities worshipped are Vishnu, Siva, Surya, Lakshmi, Parvati, Saraswati, Krishna, Rama, Sita, Hanuman, Ganesha and nine forms of Devi viz., Shail Putri, Brahmcharni, Chitraghanta, Kusmandni, Skandhmata, Satyaini, Kalratri, Mahngauri and Sidhmata. The Gomati, Ghaghara, Sarju and Sarda are the holy rivers of the district. The serpent god called Nagadevata is also worshipped. Worship in temples is occasional with only a few visiting them daily. Generally there is a separate corner or place in homes, where idols of the favourite deity or deities are kept and also sometimes installed for worship. Many offer prayers in the morning and evening both. Some also make oblations to fire daily, weekly or only occasionally. Fasts are observed weekly or periodically on prescribed dates of the lunar month and at some festivals. Discourses on and recitations from sacred books like the *Upanishads*, *Gita*, *Sri Mad Bhagvata*, *Purana*, *Ramayana* or *Ramacharitmanasa* and *Kirtans* (collective singing of the glory of the Lord) are arranged privately or publicly.

Like all forest-dwelling races the Tharus are intensely superstitious and given to the worship of ghosts and spirits. They do not own the Vedas and Puranas of the orthodox Hindus, but worship Siva and Devi. On Sivaratri day they keep fast, eat only fruits and resort to a nearby Siva temple. On the occasion of Kartiki-purnima they go to river to take the holy dip. Ancestorworship is also common among them. Near every house there is a small raised platform with a godling installed on it. This deity is variously called Kalika, Nagaryayi Devi, Bhuiyan and Burhe-baba. The village gods are particularly propitiated in the month of Ashadha and Magh (June-July and January-February, respectively). The common offerings are coconut, wine, hen, goat and pig, the last being the favourite offering for Burhe-baba.

There are a large number of Hindu temples and places of worship in the district, the most frequented being the temple of Gokarannath or Mahadeo at Gola. Gola is one of the most sacred places of pilgrimage in the State and about 1,50,000 persons congregate there twice annually in Phalguna and Chaitra for 15 days on each occasion. Pilgrims and traders come here from long distances, travelling by road and rail, the devotees bring Ganga water to pour over the *lingam* of Mahadeo. This temple is supposed to be the central spot of a large tract of sacred ground. About 29 km. east of it there is a tank called Surjkund at Deokali, built in honour of the *Surya devata* (sun-god), where religious assemblies are held. The town of Dhaurahra in tahsil Nighasan is another religious place where stands an old temple dedicated to Rama. Nearby is a place known as Rambhati which is believed to be the spot where Tulsi Das stayed for some time.

**Arya Samaj**—A branch of Arya Samaj was established in the district in the last decade of the 19th century. In 1891, the number of Arya Samajists was 132 and at the beginning of the present century it had grown to 183. At the census of 1951, the number has risen to 582. They are theists. They believe in the reality of God, soul and matter. The law of Karma and the transmigration of souls are accepted in their entirety. The word 'Arya' is used by the Arya Samajists in an ethical sense, and is interpreted to mean 'the noble.' 'Samaj' means society and thus Arya Samaj is 'the society of the noble' who followed the religion of the Vedas. It was founded by Maharshi Dayananda.

**Of Muslims**—Any one believing in one God and Muhammad as his prophet, is a Muslim. Islam enjoins five duties upon its followers, the recitation of the *kalma*, that is an expression of faith in God and the prophet Muhammad, the practice of *namaz* or offering of prayers to God five times a day individually or collectively in a mosque, the observance of *roza* or fasting in the month of Ramadan, Hajj the pilgrimage to Mecca, and the offering of *zakat* (charity in cash or kind). The five prayers, called after the time at which they have to be offered, viz. those of *fajr*, *zuhar*, *asr*, *maghrib* and *isha*, are to be offered before sunrise, in the afternoon, in the evening, at the time of sunset and before going to bed respectively. The *Quran* is their holy book which is read or recited.

There are many mosques including a Jama Masjid in the district. A number of Muslims have faith in saints called *pirs* (saints) and hold *urs* ceremonies i.e. anniversary celebrations of the demise of the saints, at their tombs. On such occasions practices which may not, strictly speaking, have the sanction of Islam are sometimes indulged in. *Meelad* celebrations are also common here and are observed by the Sunnis with great rejoicing to commemorate the birth of the prophet in the month of Rabi I. During such celebrations houses are illuminated and religious discourses highlighting the teachings of Islam are held.

**Of Sikhs**—Sikhism is a monotheistic religion, disavowing idolatry and caste. The wearing of a comb, an iron bangle, a dagger and a pair of short drawers and growing long hair are mandatory for those who profess this faith. These are known as the five *kas* viz., *kangha*, *kara*,

*kirpan, kachha* and *kesh*. The prohibition regarding smoking is observed by most of the Sikhs, especially the Keshdharis.

**Of Christians**—The Christians believe in one God, that Jesus Christ is his son and is the Saviour of mankind. There are churches in which they meet for congregational worship. In this district there are churches both of the Roman Catholics and of the Protestants.

**Of Jains**—Jainism is so-called after the 'Jina' who was a historical personage, living in the 6th century B.C., in a contemporary of Buddha. The 'Jinas' i.e. victors, a hierarchy of human beings, twenty-four in number, called 'tirthankaras' are regarded as objects of emulation. The important sects among the Jains are 'Digambar' or sky-clad and 'Svetambar' white-clad came to be known after the mode of living of the holy men.

Jainism postulates matter and souls (*jivas*) as real. The *jiva*, has a subtle body consisting of various fine particles and the elevation of the soul and its final release consist in dropping these particles by austerities which, more or less, enables the *jiva* to float upwards to nirvana. According to Jain theories, men are, in some respect, more favoured than gods; for no god can attain nirvana without being born as man. Only by the practice of the discipline taught by the *tirthankaras* is the attainment of nirvana possible, and man alone can do so.

Jains take the law prohibiting killing quite seriously. They do not eat after nightfall lest inadvertently insects should get into the meal and be killed. The strict Jains do not drink even water without straining it several times, even the eating of certain vegetables supposed to be 'alive' is prohibited. Nor is this virtue exercised on the negative side only; active support to living beings, especially to cattle and insects, is given by Jains.

**Of Buddhists**—Buddhism is not slightly a sceptical and atheistic without God. The eightfold path of Buddhism that leads to nirvana is a code of morality, not the commandment of God, but a law to a self-willed ruler governs the world. The Buddhist conception of universe is the antithesis of the animal Pantheism of the Advaitin. The Buddha, however, had profound compassion for the weakness of man. The application of the eightfold middle path of eight name is *Satyavacana* (right speech), *Satya Biswas* (right aspiration) *Satya Biswan* (right speech), *Satya Karma* (right conduct), *Satya Nirvah* (right living), *Satya Prayatna* (right effort), *Satya Dhyana* (right-mindfulness) and *Satya Bhava* (right meditation) was enforced on the monastic orders only; for common men the middle path which preached the common virtues of charity and a moral life was taught. This path is narrow and leads to the attainment of peace, enlightenment and nirvana. Avoiding the two extremes of indulgence in sensuous pleasure, and total denial of worldly enjoyments and objects, the Buddhists try to right the middle course. They also worship in their temples and offer daily prayer at dawn.

#### Festivals and Fairs

**Hindus**—Almost all the common Hindu festivals are celebrated in the district.

Sitala Astami falls on the 8th day of the dark half of Chaitra, when Sitala Devi, is worshipped. On the ninth day of the bright half of the same month, Rama Navami, the birth anniversary of Rama, is celebrated. Some people keep fast till midday. The *Ramayana* and the *Ramacharitmanasa* are read and devotional songs and discourses, are arranged. In some temples the idol of Rama is exhibited in a cradle.

The Vata Amavasya falls on the last day of the first half of the month of Jyaishtha and is observed in memory of the devotion of Savitri to her husband Satyavan, whence it is also named *Vat-Savitri*. It is celebrated by married women praying and wishing for their husbands' life and prosperity. Its typical feature is womens' worshipping and twelve times going round the banyan tree or a branch of it in their homes.

Naga Panchami is celebrated on the fifth day of the bright half of the month of Saravana to appease the serpent god. It is an important rainy-season festival, in the district for girls particularly, married daughters look forward to visiting their parents' home for this festival. They swing and sing songs called *kajari* and *baramasi*. Actually swinging along with singing these folk songs by women, children and also men during the twin rainy months of Sarvana and Bhadra is popular in the whole of U.P. Fairs and wrestling matches are also held at many places on this occasion, another typical feature of the season being the blowing of bamboo pipes by brothers carrying coloured *neem* sticks and going about with their sisters' dolls.

Raksha Bandhan is a festival denoting brothers' pledges to protect their sisters. It falls on the full moon day of the month of Sravana. The sister ties *rakhi* (coloured thread) on the right wrist of her brother and thus the latter's pledge to protect her is renewed. At some places the Brahmanas also tie *rakhi* to the wrists of their *yajamanas* and receive money from them.

Harchatha falls on the 6th day of the dark half of the month of Bhadra when mothers keep fast for the well-being of their sons, eating only the uncultivated variety of rice and green leaves.

Janamastami falls on the birth anniversary of Krishna on the eighth day of the first fortnight of Bhadra. Stunich devotees fast without taking even water till the time of the birth at midnight when they take *prasad*. All the temples of Krishna are decorated and illuminated. Dolls and toys are also arranged in homes around the idols of Krishna in cradles or depicting events of his life. These are called *jhankis*, meaning a "glimpses of the auspicious events." People go from house to house, and temple to temple appreciating the artistic representations some of which show great ingenuity and skill. Singing of devotional songs relating to Krishna and his life is a special feature of this festival.

Hartalika Teej falls on the third day of the first fortnight of Bhadra and is a well-known festival of the district, when the women fast for the welfare of their husbands.

Ganesh Chaturathi falls on the fourth day of latter half of Bhadra, when mothers keep fast for the well-being of their sons,

Anant Chaturdashi falls on the fourteenth day of the latter half of Bhadra and is celebrated in memory of Rishi Ananta.

Pitra Visarjan Amavasya is the first fortnight of the month of Asvina and it is devoted to the ceremony of Shradhha (propitiation of dead ancestors). During this period festivities of any sort are avoided.

The ninth day of the bright half of Asvina is known as Durga Navami when people worship Durga. The temples of the district are specially decorated on this occasion and are visited by crowds of people who perform rituals in the temples, visiting one or each of these nine days as they do during the Navaratri of Chaitra.

Daschera falls on the tenth day of the bright half of Asvina and commemorates the victory of Rama over Ravana. Its celebration commences nine days previously and the main day coincides with the Navaratra celebration. Ramlila celebrations are held at innumerable places in the district. Many dramatic performances are also arranged besides literary and other programmes. Vijaya Dasami is the tenth day which marks the death of Ravana and Mahishasur representing evil at the hands of Rama and Durga representing good. The entire Bengali community of the district celebrates these ten days. They put on new clothes. Many people fast on all the nine days by eating non-cereal diet only once a day. Ramlila processions are taken out with great enthusiasm at many places in the district.

Sharad Purnima is celebrated to mark the birthday of Amba Mata. It falls on the fifteenth day of Asvina.

The fourth day of the dark fortnight of Kartika, called Karwa Chauth, is observed by married women for the well-being of their husbands.

The thirteenth day of Kartika, called Dhanteras, marks the commencement of the Divali festivities and people purchase jewellery and metal utensils according to their means. Some also worship Dhanwantri, the presiding deity of Ayurvedas. The next day is Naraka Chaturdashi or Chhoti Divali when *daridra*, that is the god of poverty, is supposed to quit houses which are cleaned and kept ready for the reception of Lakshmi, the goddess of wealth. The next day is Divali or Dipavali, the festival of lights, falling on Kartiki Amavasya. It commemorates the return of Rama to Ayodhya after destroying Ravana. Houses are illuminated and Ganesha and Lakshmi are worshipped. For traders and businessmen, Dipavali marks the end of the fiscal year when they close the account books, open new ones and pray for gain and prosperity, *labha* and *subha*, in the new year. Eating of *zimikand*, also called *sooran*, which is a root vegetable, is a must on this day. One day after Divali is the famous festival of Bhaiyadwiji to renew the bonds of fraternal affection when sisters put *tikris* on their brothers' foreheads after performing some puja preceded by fasting. For the Kayasthas this is an important day as they worship the pen and the inkpot, the means of their livelihood, and offer prayers to Chitengupta, their ancestor. Some people worship the god of cattle wealth on the day following Divali.

Kartiki-purnima is a bathing festival. People take a dip in the holy rivers believing that all their sins will thereby be washed away as Siva conquered the demon Tripura on this day.

Makar Sankranti usually falls on January fourteenth or sometimes a day earlier. It is the last day of the stay of the sun in the tropic of capricorn whereafter it travels northwards. It is also a bathing festival. Its typical features are devotional practices, eating *khichari* and taking *laddoos* of black and white *til* and *gur*. It is also followed by another bathing day, the Amavasya of Magha.

Vasant Panchami is the fifth day of the succeeding fortnight of the month of Magha dedicated to the worship of Saraswati, the goddess of learning. Its typical feature is bathing and wearing of *basanti* (a shade of yellow colour) clothes.

Sivaratri is the fourteenth day of the first fortnight of next month of Phalguni dedicated to the worship of Siva. The devotees fast throughout the day and are supposed to keep awake at night singing the glory of god. The Siva temples are specially decorated and illuminated in this occasion. A large number of devotees offer water, yellow flowers and *belpatra* (leaves of the *bel* tree) to the icons and images of Siva. For the Arya Samajists, Sivaratri is a memorable day, because Maharsi Dayananda, the founder of this school, got enlightenment on this night. The Arya Samajists celebrate the week preceding this day as Rishi-bodha-saptah and arrange discourses by learned scholars on the seven days.

Holi, the festival of spring, is the concluding festival of the Vikrama era falling on the full-moon day of Phalguni. People in the rural areas sing *phaag*, the folk song of the season, to the accompaniment of *dholak* before and after the day of festival. Holi is sung even by classical singers and, in cities, fires are lit at important points in public places at a fixed time in the evening or night, preceding the day of the festival to commemorate the annihilation of all ill-will, malice and evil of the previous year represented by the demon god's sister, Holika. Newly harvested ears of barley and wheat are thrown into the fire as offerings to the gods. The following day people rejoice and throw coloured water on each other and greet each other freely without any distinction of rank, putting dry coloured powder on each other's forehead or face. Rural people put on new clothes before playing coloured water whereas urban people do so in the evening when visiting relatives and friends.

For the Tharus Holi is the most important of all the festivals. They start celebrating it a month before the actual day of Holi and continue the festivities till the eighth day after it. During this period feasting, drinking, singing and dancing are freely indulged in. Tharus also participate in the *urs* celebrations of certain *pirs* and also attend some of the local fairs of the district.

The number of Hindu religious fairs in the district is quite large. Most of the festivals are accompanied by local fairs too. The biggest ones are the fair of Chaiti which falls on the Chaitra Amavasya and that of Sivaratri on the thirteenth day of the dark half of Phalguni at Gola which attract about 75,000 and 50,000 persons respectively. The Ram-lila fair associated with Dasahra, attended by about 50,000 persons, is held at Lakhimpur. A detailed list of fairs is given at the end of the chapter in Statement II.

**Muslims**—The Muslims too celebrate a number of festivals, the most important being Barawafat, Shab-e-Barat, Id-ul-Fitr, Id-uz-Zuha,

Giarhween Sharif and Muharram, the last named being an occasion for mourning rather than rejoicing. The festivals fall on particular dates of the Islamic calendar and depend upon the visibility of moon.

Barawafat, the birthday of prophet Muhammad, falls on the twelfth day of Rabi-al-awwal. Alms are distributed and discourses, called Maulud Sharif are arranged on the prophet's life.

Sab-e-Barat falls on the night of the fourteenth day of Shaban when prayers (*fatcha*) are read for the peace of souls of one's deceased kith and kin. Prayers (*fatcha*), usually recited or read over sweets and bread which are then distributed. The Shia Muslims celebrate it also as the anniversary of the birthday of their twelfth Imam.

On the first of Shawal, the festival of Id-ul-Fitr is celebrated by offering prayers in mosques or at Idgahs and greeting each other exchanging sweets. It marks the end of the month of fasting, Ramadan.

Id-uz-Zuha (or Bakrid) is celebrated on the tenth day of the month of Zilhijja to commemorate prophet Ibrahim's submitting himself to the will of God and attempting to sacrifice his son. Men attend morning prayers in mosques and sheep and goats are sacrificed in God's name.

Giarhween Sharif is a festival of special importance to the Sunnis and is observed on the eleventh day of the month of Rabi-us-sani in honour of Abdul Qadir Jilani, an ancient Muslim saint of Baghdad, believed to be a descendant of the prophet. Prayers, sweets and flowers are offered in his memory on this occasion.

The first ten days of the month of Muharram commemorate the martyrdom of Imam Husain and his companions on the historic battle field of Karbala. Muharram, the first month of the Muslim year is a period of mourning, specially for Shias whose women especially observe the rites of mourning during this period such as breaking the bangles, abstaining from the use of ornaments, wearing black, and non-participation in social functions except those expressive of sorrow. Many Shias hold *majlisas* in their homes to hear *marsias* (elegies) or discourses describing the life of Imam Husain and the story of the battle of Karbala followed by lamentation and beating of chests. On Ashura, the tenth day of Muharram, the *tazias* which are installed on or after the first day of the month are taken out by some in procession for burial at a local Karbala. On the occasion of Chelhum or the fortieth day after Ashur which falls in the month of Safar the remaining *tazias* are taken out in processions in morning, by the Sunnis and in the afternoon by the Shias. This arrangement is according to a settlement arrived at long ago between the two communities in order to prevent any clashes between them. On the 8th day of the month of Rabi-al-awwal, mourning concludes and a procession of *alams* i.e., banners is taken out by the Shias. In some Shia processions there is no external demonstration of grief and they are taken out in silence.

Besides the above festivals *urs* ceremonies are held at the tombs of famous saints. They are usually accompanied by the local fairs. The *urs* of Inayat Ullah Shah, is held at Ghausia. The important Muslim

fairs are those held in honour of Saiyid Khurram at Aurangabad, Lal Pir at Rahimnagar and of Chheda Miyan at Kheri. On the tenth of Muharram, fairs are held at Tandhua and Hazratpur villages in tahsil Lakhimpur.

**Sikhs**—The Sikhs celebrate the birthdays of their gurus, Nanak Deo, Tegh Bahadur and Govind Singh. Passages from the *Granth* are read, congregational prayers are held at *gurdwaras* and processions taken out. The Baisakhi is another Sikh festival. Local fairs are held at *gurdwaras* on all these occasions.

**Christians**—The main festivals of the Christians are Christmas, the birthday of Jesus Christ, which falls on December 25th, Good-Friday, the day of Jesus Christ's crucifixion, Easter, which falls on the Sunday after Good-Friday and is the day of the resurrection of Christ and New Year's Day on the first day of January. People attend services in their churches and exchange greetings and presents. On Christmas eve scenes from the nativity of Christ are enacted and cribs are set up in the churches which people, particularly children, flock to see.

**Jains**—The Jains in the district celebrate the birth and nirvana anniversaries of Parshvanath and Mahavira, their twenty-third and twenty-fourth *tirthankaras*. The other important festivals of the Jains are Paryushan, in the last ten days of Bhadra, and Asthanika falling in the last eight days of Kartika.

**Buddhists**—The principal festival of the Buddhists is the Buddha-purnima on which day Buddha took birth, got enlightenment and attained nirvana. On this occasion they worship in their temples and recite verses from the Pali books, *Tripitaka*.

### SOCIAL LIFE

#### Property and Inheritance

In matters of inheritance the Hindus, Sikhs and Jains are governed by the Hindu Succession Act, 1956, the Muslims by their personal law, and the Christians by the Indian Succession Act, 1925. Before the enforcement on July 1, 1952 of the U.P. Zamindari Abolition and Land Reforms Act, 1950 (Act No. 1 of 1951) the right to inherit agricultural land and property was exercisable according to the provisions of the U.P. Tenancy Act, 1939, and the personal law of the individual concerned. Now, inheritance to agricultural land is governed by the former Act only.

**Joint Family**—The Hindus living in the district are mostly adherants of the Mitakshra School. The joint family, a peculiar feature of the Hindu and Jain societies, is disintegrating under the influence of western education and urbanisation. The educated, particularly in the towns, get separated earlier than their counterparts in the villages.

Division of property during the life-time of the patriarch is becoming common.

#### Marriage and Morals

The following statement shows the distribution of the population of the district according to marital status in various age groups in 1971.

Age group	Total population	Never married		Married		Widowed		Divorced or separated		Un-specified status	
				Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females
		Males	Females								
0-9	4,17,076	2,17,401	2,00,075	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
10-14	1,66,538	96,118	56,734	3,880	9,691	—	—	—	—	65	50
15-19	1,14,506	46,341	10,636	20,611	36,248	310	180	80	20	60	20
20-24	1,07,221	24,222	966	30,590	49,519	874	615	160	60	160	55
25-29	1,14,682	16,397	285	48,244	52,385	2,021	1,115	175	40	10	10
30-34	1,12,700	5,927	110	50,027	51,571	3,010	1,780	205	40	10	20
35-39	93,519	4,561	35	4,324	40,089	2,835	1,440	165	—	50	—
40-44	93,795	3,168	350	46,011	33,993	4,483	4,613	145	40	50	40
45-49	64,179	2,329	230	29,308	23,489	3,598	4,915	120	30	20	60
50-54	66,459	2,025	30	30,984	17,658	6,165	9,392	20	20	105	60
55-59	82,219	985	25	13,295	10,591	3,050	4,198	30	10	25	10
60-64	46,822	1,130	10	19,327	9,411	6,298	10,551	20	30	—	50
65-69	17,843	395	20	6,320	4,228	2,889	3,979	20	—	—	10
70 and above	38,765	605	25	12,036	5,072	6,498	14,558	10	—	15	10
Age not stated	246	35	10	44	115	—	10	—	—	11	21
Total	14,86,590	4,15,239	2,69,541	3,55,993	3,44,001	42,041	57,338	1,150	290	581	416

**Of Hindus**—Among the Hindus of district, as elsewhere in the State, marriage is a sacrament. Variations in performances of different ceremonies occur between castes and even families but the chief ceremonies viz : *saptapadi*, literally, seven steps and *kanyadan*, the giving away of the girl are essential and common. Mostly people marry within their sub-castes, although inter-caste and inter-religion marital alliances are increasing gradually.

The Hindu Marriage Act, 1955, declared polygamy to be illegal among Hindus, the term, 'Hindu,' including Sikhs and Jains in this context. The marital age is 18 years for the bridegroom and 15 years for the bride but in the event of the latter not having completed the age of 18 years, the consent of the guardian has to be obtained. The customary restrictions observed by the Brahmanas mostly, such as prohibiting marriage between persons of the same *gotra* (eponymous group descended from a common ancestor in the male line of descent) have legally been abolished with the passing of the Act. Marriages are still mostly arranged by the parents. The bride's people take the initiative in making overtures to the bridegroom or his people, sometimes through intermediaries. The rigidity about the fixation of the date and time of the marriage only in consultation with a pandit after astrological calculations, has been relaxed.

In arranged marriages the first ceremony is performed by the bride's side which amounts to the booking of the boy. The next is a major ceremony performed at the bridegroom's house, called *tika* or *tilak* when presents and cash sent by the bride's party are offered to the bridegroom and the date and time of marriage as proposed by the bride's people is formally communicated to the opposite party. The *barat* (marriage procession) arrives on the appointed day at the bride's house where *dwarpuja*, that is, puja at the door-step of the bride's residence is performed and the bridegroom and his party are ceremoniously received. The main marriage ceremony consists of *kanyadan*, *sindurdan*, *saptapadi* (seven steps taken round the sacred fire) by the couple together, showing of the polar star, Dhurva, to them, placing their feet on a stone by the couple together to betoken the firmness and strength of their relationship like the polar star and the stone, and finally the promises made by both to each other for a happy conjugal life in the presence of the fire-god, Agni. The guests are feasted. After *vida* or farewell, the *barat* returns with the bride and the articles of dowry to the bridegroom's house.

In some cases among the Scheduled Castes a declaration before the caste panchayat by the bride of her willingness to accept the bridegroom or the reciting of *kathas*, or the tying of one end of the bride's garment to the bridegroom's or the putting of vermillion on the former's head by the latter are enough to complete the alliance. Once married, divorce or separation, though permitted by the law, are not considered appropriate or good. So both parties make the utmost effort to continue living together.

A male issue is also considered a must to propitiate the elders and to continue the line.

The Tharus do not marry outside their tribe. Marriages are generally arranged in childhood by the parents. The first ceremony is known as *apna-paraya* or *mangnai* when the boy's parents go to the girl's home with a *gur-ki-bheli* (lump of jaggery) or some offer sweets and fish to the girl's parents. If the latter accept the offer, both the parties greet each other by saying, '*ram-ram samdhi*'. The betrothal is complete and, as a token, thereof the presented jaggery is distributed among kinsmen and friends. When the would-be bride and bridegroom come of age, the latter's people again go to the former's house on a Sunday or Thursday and fix the date of the marriage. Jaggery or sweets are again distributed on this occasion. This ceremony usually takes place a week or so before the actual marriage and is known as *bat-kahi* or *pichhauncha*. The marriage is celebrated on a Sunday or Thursday in the month of Magh, or on the Phulera-duij day (the second day of the bright half of Phalguna) at the bride's house where the bridegroom with his party (*barat*) arrives. On the occasion of the *dwarachar* at the entrance of the bride's house the fathers of both the boy and the girl are tied together with a scarf and are released after counting loudly up to twenty. A set of five clothes, fish, curd and an earthen pitcher full of water are then placed in a basket. On the pitcher is placed an oil lamp (*diya*). This basket is placed in a prominent place inside the house and the couple go round it seven times. This *bhaunri* or *bhanwar* ceremony marks the completion of the marriage which is followed by communal eating and drinking. Then the bride is taken to the bridegroom's home, but she stays there only for a day and returns to her parents. Two or three months later, generally in the month of Chaitra or Vaisakha, the *chala* ceremony is performed when she finally goes to live with her husband. In the Tharu marriage no deities are worshipped, no sacred hymns are recited and no priest is required. A man may also keep a woman as wife or concubine. This custom is known as *kaj* and such a woman as *kaj-karu*. Similarly, a woman may keep a man as husband. Such a kept man is called ■ *chutkaha*, *ghar-baitha* or *ras-baitha*.

**Of Muslims**--Marriage ceremonies among the Muslims are much simpler than among the Hindus. The actual *nikah* ceremony differs somewhat in the case of Shias and Sunnis. Islam permits polygamy, a man being allowed to have up to four wives at a time. With the Muslims marriage is a contract and the dowry or *mehr* is always fixed before the ceremony takes place, the amount of the *mehr* varying according to the status of the two families who are united by a marriage. The marriages are, as with the Hindus, usually settled by the parents of the parties, the proposal being initiated by the parents of the bridegroom rather than those of the bride. In Muslims also the ceremonies of *mangni* or settlement of the marriage and the *barat* takes place. The actual marriage ceremony is called *nikah*. Among Sunnis, *nikah* is performed by a Qazi who keeps a marriage register and the contract of marriage is witnessed by two or more persons who sign the register. The consent of the parties to the marriage is obtained through *vakils* since the girls are in purdah, and in any case, they cannot be expected to give a consent openly, out of modesty. The ceremony is a simple one. As soon as the consent of the parties to the marriage has been communicated and announced and the *mehr* fixed, the Qazi recites the *khutba* and the marriage is complete. The friends and relations and other

persons who join the marriage are then entertained and dates and candy are distributed. Persons belonging to the higher castes entertain the *barat* to dinner or to tea. The bridegroom is then introduced to his wife's relations and the *vida* or *rukhsat* takes place, the bridegroom leading the party with his bride and followed by the dowry. Sometimes, among middle class people the dowry is taken out in a procession to the house of the bridegroom. Among the Shias the ceremony is slightly different and the marriage is usually performed by *vakils* who are *mujtahids* or *maulvis* i.e. people learned in the Muslim Shariat law, of both the parties, who obtain the consent of the bride and the bridegroom. The prohibited degrees for marriage among the Muslims are not large and marriages among cousins are permitted and indeed considered desirable. But marriages between uncles and nieces cannot take place. Marriages are thus closely endogamous. Among the Shias the practice of *muta* marriage i.e. marriage for a stated period still continues, but the practice is not very common.

**Of Christians**—Christian marriages are governed by the Indian Christian Marriage Act, 1872 as amended in 1952. The minimum marital age is 18 years for a male and 15 years for a female, but in case the latter is under 18 years of age, the consent of her guardian is necessary. Usually the proposal for marriage is made by the man and when accepted by the woman, the engagement is taken to be complete. The period of engagement continues till the marriage. The banns are published thrice, once every week by the priest of the church where the marriage is to be solemnised, to give an opportunity for objection if any. On the fixed date the bride and the bridegroom get married in church, the ceremony being performed by the priest. The essential items are the giving away of the bride by the father or other relative or friend, the taking of the marriage vows by the bride and the bridegroom both, the bridegroom's putting a ring on the third finger of the bride's left hand, sometimes the exchange of rings between the couple, the pronouncement of the couple as husband and wife by the priest and the signing of the marriage register by the couple and their witnesses. Wedding festivities then usually follow at the bride's home.

**Dowry**—With the passing of the Dowry Prohibition Act, 1961, offering and acceptance of dowry, which was previously customary has become illegal, though in practice it is still prevalent and in some communities, even with the most unseemly impudence.

**Civil Marriage**—The Special Marriage Act, 1954 provides for marriages to be performed and registered by the district marriage officer, appointed by government for the purpose. He is usually one of the magistrates. In this system, the parties give one month's notice before the proposed date of marriage to the marriage officer indicating their intention to marry. The notice of marriage is exhibited on the notice board of the marriage officer or of the district magistrate for objections, if any. After the expiry of the period of objections, if no valid objection is raised, the marriage is performed and registered. The parties sign the register and receive marriage certificates from the marriage officer. The number of such marriages was 2 in 1970 and 2 in 1971, 2 in 1972, 6 in 1973, and 3 in 1974. The simplicity of procedure is one of the reasons of the popularity of this system which is the only course for inter-religion alliances.

**Widow Marriage**—The Hindu Widow's Marriage Act, 1856, provides for the remarriage of a widow. Even before that, widow's marriages were performed in the Arya Samaj according to Vedic rites. However the incidence of such marriages is very small particularly among the higher classes. In 1961 the number of widows was 66,167 and that of widowers 38,173.

**Divorce**—Among the Hindus the dissolution of a marriage once performed was not permissible. Among Scheduled Castes, with the sanction of the panchayat, it was possible. The Hindu Marriage Act, 1955, made divorce legal under certain conditions and circumstances. The Muslim law permits the husband to divorce the wife on payment of *mehr*. The Dissolution of Muslim Marriage Act, 1939, gives the right to the wife to claim dissolution of her marriage under certain conditions. The Indian Divorce Act, 1869 is applicable to all civil marriages and generally to the Christians. Nevertheless, among the higher classes, instances of divorce are rare. Details of divorce cases decided in the district during the past five years are given below :

Year	No. of cases filed			No. of cases in which divorce was allowed and filed		
	Total	By men	By women	Total	By men	By women
1970	18	6	12	9	2	7
1971	21	14	7	9	5	4
1972	18	5	8	5	2	3
1973	20	14	6	6	5	1
1974	6	2	4	—	—	—
Total	78	41	37	29	14	15

**Prostitution and Traffic in Women**—Before the enforcement of the Suppression of Immoral Traffic in Women and Girls' Act, 1956, in the district, the Sarai was the main red-light area in Lakhimpur town. With the enforcement of the Act the activities of such dens of infamy have stopped. The evil has, however, shifted to clubs and posh hotels as complained by the accomplices of the erstwhile professional prostitutes. Similarly immoral traffic in women, particularly young girls, from the rural area, persists as is evident from the stray cases sometimes detected.

**Gambling**—The Public Gambling Act, 1867 (Act No. 3 of 1967) as applicable to the State under the Uttar Pradesh Public Gambling Acts of 1952, and 1961, prohibits gambling in the district. It is usually indulged in as a pastime throughout the year. The number of prosecutions launched in the district in 1971, 1972 and 1973 was 68, 26 and 41 respectively.

**Housing**—In 1971, there were 2,87,555 census houses in the district of which 2,65,960 were in the rural area and 21,595 in the urban. The average size of a household in rural areas is 5.3 and in the urban areas 5.1 as against 4.6 and 4.8 respectively in 1961. This shows that the rural and urban averages have both registered increases obviously due to expansion of the population of Kheri district. There are 30.9 per cent single-room houses, 34.9 per cent two roomed, 18.5 per cent three roomed and 8.3 per cent four roomed ones. Only 7.4 per cent have five or more rooms. Still there are pavement dwellers and pavement sleepers in the town. As per census records of 1971, there were 849 houseless persons, 545 being males. Of these 339 were in Nighasan 313 in Lakhimpur and 197 in Muhamdi tahsils.

The Statement III given at the end of the chapter shows the classification of households by their size and tenure status in the district in 1971 :

**Houses**—The residences of erstwhile big zamindars were well built, spacious and sometimes even palatial, but they are not well maintained now. In rural areas, there is a change in the people's outlook so far as the use of building material is concerned, but there is not much change in the basic pattern either of the houses or of the village modelling. An appearance of modernity is however, discernible due to the use of bricks, cement, and iron and rolling shutters. Some builders have adopted modern designs also in front elevation. The opening of their offices and branches by such commercial concerns as banks and roadways has also contributed to urbanization in housing particularly at the tahsil headquarters and in villages where markets are held and which lie on main roads.

Mud is the predominant material of house walls in the village and burnt bricks in town, 68.6 per cent households in rural areas and 76.8 per cent in urban areas lived in houses built of such material in 1971. Grass, leaves, reeds, thatch, wood, unburnt bricks or bamboo are the most predominant roofing materials in the rural area accounting for 86.7 per cent of the material used in 1971. This is due to the plentiful availability of such material on account of damp climate. Concrete and stone slab account for 46.7 per cent in the urban areas. Bricks and lime are also used as roof material in the towns (18.9 per cent) followed by corrugated metal sheet (7.9 per cent).

**Furniture and Decoration**—The lower class households in rural areas originally have *munj* and bamboo cots and/or wooden *tukhats* and *modhas* for furniture. Those better off keep such pieces of furniture as chairs, tables, cane or reed *modhas*, sofa set, cot., and *nizwar* beds. The people in the urban areas use ordinary furniture such as chairs, tables, beds and sometimes possess articles of posh furniture and modern furnishings, depending on their means and aesthetic taste. Pictures or calendars bearing pictures, clay toys, and colourful painted designs wrought on walls and doors form the usual decoration. Some women do nice work on walls. On festivals and ceremonial days, mango leaves called *bandanwar* are hung on the main door, besides flags and bunting.

While taking meals usually in the kitchen, people generally sit on ground or on wooden planks with their feet on small mats, in villages and towns both. The modernised families use dining tables and chairs. Use of china or clay crockery was quite in vogue particularly among the town folk, but some of them have taken to stainless steel crockery now. In villages metal utensiles are preferred. Recently plastic goods have also found their way in to all households.

**Food**.—The people are mostly rice-eaters by habit and preference. The number of those who eat meat, fish and eggs is also considerable. Meat is not generally available in the villages and many, even in towns, can hardly afford it. Wheat, rice, grain, maize and pulses along with curd, milk, vegetables, ghee and vegetable oils constitute the items of daily food, rice being the staple food of the people. Coarse grains like jowar, maize, barley, *bajra*, *kodon* and *sawan* form the staple diet of the poor. Among villagers *sattu* or flour of parched gram and barley mixed and *chabena* or parched grain is quite popular. Finely ground *sattu* is used in towns also. People generally take two meals a day, about midday and sunset or morning and evening. *Roti* or chapati, or rice is eaten with a bowl of pulse or with cooked vegetables, pickles, curd, or only salt, jaggery or onion. Tea is common. Milk is gradually becoming rare. Seasonal fruits and vegetables are used. Efforts are being made by various government departments to change the food habits of the people, and to induce them to grow and eat more green vegetables, potatoes, and eggs but there has not been much success upto now.

**Dress**.—The normal dress of the men, both Hindus and Muslims, is shirt or *kurti* and *dhoti* or pyjamas. While going out, however, they generally put on a pair of trousers with a coat, shirt or bush-shirt, which last has become the dress of the working classes. Once back home they revert to the normal dress. On formal occasions, a few men wear *sherwani* or *achkan* and *churidars* or loose pyjamas. In villages men still wear a turban.

The normal dress of women is a sari and blouse or *choli* (short blouse). The Punjabi women, however, put on a *shalwar*, *kurti* and *dupatta*. In the town of Lakhimpur young girls are also seen wearing a shirt and slacks, *shalwar*, *gharara* or *sharara* with *kurti* and *dupatta* and more recently, bell-bottom pyjamas with *kamiz*. The use of the *lahnga* (full long skirt) lingers among the women of the villages and on ceremonial occasions, in Hindu families in the towns also. Women usually cover their heads and men use cloth caps.

**Jewellery**.—Men do not wear any jewellery except sometimes a gold chain round the neck and rings on their fingers. Women as usual, use gold, silver or nickel jewellery according to their means and taste. Costume jewellery is also in vogue now in all communities. The following are the common items of jewellery used in the rural and urban areas.

*Bunda* or *jhumki* (ear-ring), *kara* for the hands and the feet both, *lachcha*, *payal* (anklets), *keel* and *nath* (nose stud and nose-ring), *hansuli* (tight necklace), *kardhani* (gold or silver waist band), *anguthi* (ring), and *panchhaila* (wristlet). Silver *bichhia* (toe-ring) is a must for every married Hindu woman.

### Communal Life

**Amusements and Recreation**—There are six cinema houses with a total seating capacity of 4,233 persons in the district of which 8 are at Lakhimpur and 2 at Gola Gokarannath and one at Palia Kalan. The cinema is the cheapest and the most popular means of entertainment. Documentaries and other films are also shown by mobile cinema organisations in the rural areas also. Dramatic societies and circuses also visit the district now and then. *Dangal* (wrestling matches), *nautankis* (indigenous open-air dramatic performances), *bhajans* and *qawwali* programmes, *kavi sammelans*, magic shows and *mushairas* are also arranged at different places from time to time. Besides, in the local fairs amusements like swings, children's carnivals or magic shows are also arranged. *Ram'lila* and *Krishnalila* provide entertainment in their own way. Occasionally artists and troupes from outside visit the district and provide entertainment.

The village folk generally look for recreation and amusement during the rainy season, between weeding operations, and on winter nights, when they are comparatively free. They themselves sing folk songs, called *birha*, *kajri*, *bedesia* and *malhar*, to the accompaniment of handy musical instruments like the *dholak* (drum) and *majiras* (cymbals) and, often, the harmonium too. *Kajri* and *Holi* are sung in groups. Among some castes such as the *Kahars* and *Dhobis* the men also have folk dances in groups.

The people with a religious bent of mind enjoy *kathas* and *kirtans*. Puppet shows are held mostly in the rainy season and are very popular. Recently the radio has become the greatest medium for the dissemination of news, instruction as well as entertainment to the masses.

The All India Radio broadcasts special programmes for the rural listeners. The government had also provided radio sets to gram (village) panchayats but most of these are not maintained in working trim. At present there are 677 youth clubs with 8,649 members and 373 Balmangal Dals with 4,426 members.

*Kabaddi*, *gulli-danda*, *gulhar*, *choon-ghora*, *lukwal* and *kho kho* are the indigenous games and sports common in the district. Of the modern games, *volley-ball*, *foot-ball*, *hockey*, *cricket*, *badminton* and *tennis* are commonly played.

**Impact of Zamindari Abolition on Social Life**—With the passing of the Uttar Pradesh Zamindari Abolition and Land Reforms Act, 1950 which was enforced in the district on July 1, 1952, the social and economic life of the rural people has improved a lot. The tillers have now become owners of their land, indemnified against ejection, arbitrary enhancement of revenue, *begar* (forced, unpaid or underpaid labour) and payment of monetary exactions like the *nazarana* or *pugaree* (premium). They are socially on equal footing with the erstwhile zamindars and enjoy better status than before. The ex-landlords, on the other hand, except those who had extensive *sir* or *khudhkasht*, have suffered. Most of them had to adapt themselves to the altered circumstances and have taken to cultivating their lands or engaging themselves in other pursuits.

Ceilings on the holdings of agricultural land have been fixed and the surplus land is given to landless agriculturists. The social disabilities of the Harijans have been largely removed. A number of persons belonging to the Scheduled Castes are finding employment under the government and local bodies.

Local self-government institutions are playing an important role in the lives of the people. The traditional leaders of the villages, namely zamindars, priests and *mahajans* have been replaced by a new type of political leaders. The village panchayats with their executive and judicial wings are creating a new sense of democratic consciousness among the people. The average citizen has become more self-respecting and aware of the importance of his role in the body politic of the country. Of late however, lawlessness has increased and group politics appears to have penetrated deeply into the village life. But this may be a transitory phase.

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**STATEMENT I**  
*Area and Population*

Reference Page No. 41

District and taluk 1	Area		Population						1961
	1971		1961		1971		Males	Females	
	Sq.km.	Sq.km.	Persons	Persons	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females
2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	8	9
District Total	7,691.0	8,045.3	14,86,590	8,15,004	6,71,586	12,55,483	6,79,011	5,79,422	
Rural	7,657.6	8,014.7	13,94,247	7,64,122	6,30,125	11,88,836	6,40,550	5,48,286	
Urban	38.4	30.6	92,343	50,882	41,461	69,597	38,461	31,136	
Nighasan Total	3,281.0	3,062.7	4,59,127	2,52,928	2,06,199	3,92,989	2,12,640	1,80,349	
Rural	3,281.0	3,062.7	4,59,127	2,52,928	2,06,199	3,92,659	2,12,640	1,80,349	
Urban	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Lakhimpur Total	2,806.5	3,104.5	5,94,581	3,24,967	2,69,614	5,03,804	2,71,062	2,32,242	
Rural	2,791.2	3,179.2	5,38,823	2,94,572	2,44,251	4,60,809	2,47,910	2,12,899	
Urban	15.3	15.3	55,758	30,395	25,363	42,495	23,152	19,343	
Nuharidi Total	1,844.6	1,788.1	4,32,882	2,37,109	1,95,773	3,62,140	1,95,309	1,66,831	
Rural	1,826.5	1,772.8	3,96,297	2,16,622	1,79,675	3,35,038	1,80,000	1,55,038	
Urban	18.1	15.3	36,585	20,487	16,083	27,102	15,209	11,793	

1. There has been no jurisdictional change in the district during the decade. The difference in area figures is due to revised calculation of area done by the board of revenue.
2. According to central statistical organisation the area of the district in 1971 was 7,691 sq. km.

## STATEMENT II

*Fairs*

Place 1	Name of fair or its association with 2	Period 3	Approximate daily attendance 4

## NISHASAN TAHSIL

Dhokherwa Khalsa	Amavasya	Amavasya of every month	500
Dhaurahra	Amavasya	Amavasya of every month	500
Dhaurahra	Ramlila	Asvina, <i>Sukla</i> 1-10	5,000
Dulahi	Bakhtawar Shah	First Friday of Jyaistha	1,000
Firozabad	Burhiwa Baba	Asadha, <i>Sukla</i> 1	600
Ganeshpur	Mahadeoji	Amavasya of every month	600
Gudaria	Ramlila	Asvina, <i>Sukla</i> 1-10	1,500
Hardwahi	Mela Qila Ghori Shah	First Sunday of Chaitra	600
Isanagar	Ramlila	Asvina, <i>Sukla</i> 1-10	1,800
Kaffara	Amavasya	Amavasya of every month	700
Lakhahi	Jangli Nath	Amavasya of every month	400
Palia Kalan	Ramlila	Asvina, <i>Sukla</i> 1-10	5,500
Rakehti	Jolhu Buba	Kartika, <i>Krishna</i> 5-7	3,500
Ramlok	Kartika Purnima	Kartika, <i>Sukla</i> 15	700
Ramnagar Brgha	Ramlila	Asvina, <i>Sukla</i> 1-10	4,000
Ramnagar Lahbari	Malan Shah	Magha, <i>Sukla</i> 5	1,00
Shghai Kalan	Ramlila	Asvina <i>Sukla</i> 8 to Kartika <i>Krishna</i> 2	6,000
Sotna Barsola	Barsait	Jyaistha, Amavasya	700
Srinagar	Jyaistha Dasahra	Jyaistha, <i>Sukla</i> 10	1,000

1	2	3	4
LAKHIMPUR TAHSIL			
Amirtapur	DhanushYagya	Agrahayana, <i>Sukla</i> 10-15	350
Andeshnagar	Malang Shah	First Friday of Jyaistha, <i>Sukla</i>	150
Atkohna	Dhanush Yagya	Agrahayana, <i>Sukla</i> 10-15]	250
Bansi	Shankarji	Amavasya of every month	200
Baraula	DhanushYagya	Chaitra, <i>Sukla</i> 3	800
Behjam	Amavasya Fair	Amavasya of every month	200
Biju	Dhanush Yagya	Agrahayana, <i>Krishna</i> 1-10	4,550
Daudpur	Dhanush Yagya	Agrahayana, <i>Sukla</i> 15	600
Grant No. 10	Dhanush Yagya	Pausa, <i>Sukla</i> 5	3,000
Hazaratpur	Muharram	Muharram 10	250
Khaiyah	Dhanush Yagya	Agrahayana, <i>Sukla</i> 15	1,100
Laghucha	Dhanush Yagya	Agrahayana, <i>Sukla</i> 15	1,550
Lakhimpur M.B.	Ramlila	Asvina, <i>Sukla</i> 1-10	50,000
Lilauti	Shankarji	Amavasya of every month	250
Mahewa	Zind Baba	First Friday of Jyaistha	150
Mailani	Ramlila	Kartika	6,000
Mainaha	Gupti Nath	Amavasya of every month	150
Nakaha	Kanslila	Bhadra	200
Neemgaon	Dhanush Yagya	Pausa, <i>Sukla</i> 5	700
Padaria	Dhanush Yagya	Agrahayana, <i>Sukla</i> 15	1,100
Padaria Kalan	Dhanush Yagya	Agrahayana, <i>Sukla</i> 1-10	4,550
Patchra	Amavasya fair	Amavasya of every month	200
Patalpur	Nathu Singh	First Sunday of Jyaistha <i>Krishna</i>	100
Saidapur (Deokali)	Amavasya fair	Amavasya of every month	400

1	2	3	4
Sauna Khurd	Bhagwatiji	Purnima of every month	300
Shahpur	Bhagwatiji	Amavasya of every month	250
Sisaura	Amavasya fair	Amavasya of every month	150
Sisaura	Dhanush Yagya	Pausa <i>Sukla 5</i>	550
Tendhuwa	Muharram	Muharram 10	850
Tendhuwa	Suthri Shah	First Friday of Asadha	150

#### MUHAMADI TAHSIL

Gharthania Kumbhi	Kanslila	Bhadra, <i>Sukla 7</i>	800
Ghazipur	Jyaistha Dasahra	Jyaistha, <i>Sukla 10</i>	2,000
Ghazipur	Kartika Purnima	Kartika, <i>Sukla 15</i>	2,000
Gola Gokaran Nath M.B.	Chaita Mela	Chaitra Amavasya	75,000
Gola Gokaran Nath M.B.	Bhut Nath	Jyaistha, <i>Sukla 10</i>	4,000
Gola Gokaran Nath M.B.	Ramlila	Asvina, <i>Sukla 10</i>	2,000
Gola Gokaran Nath M.B.	Sivaratri	Phalguna, <i>Sukla 15</i>	50,000
Mohamdi M.B.	Ramlila	Asvina, <i>Sukla 1-10</i>	5,000

### STATEMENT III

*Classification of House*

Reference Page No. 59

Total Households having

Total	District Rural/Urban	Tenure status	Number of census house- holds	Households having					No. of persons unspeci- fied
				Total number	One person	Two persons	Three persons	Four persons	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
District total		Owned and Rented	2,79,170	18,635	29,305	36,145	43,455	42,990	1,08,595
		Owned	2,68,300	16,605	27,640	34,620	41,965	41,675	1,05,750
		Rented	10,870	2,030	1,665	1,525	1,490	1,315	2,845
Rural total		Owned and Rented	2,62,465	17,270	27,465	34,150	41,155	40,905	1,01,475
		Owned	2,58,125	16,105	26,820	33,590	40,630	40,400	1,00,395
		Rented	4,340	1,165	645	560	525	505	940
Urban total		Owned and Rented	16,705	1,365	1,840	1,995	2,300	2,065	7,120
		Owned	10,175	500	820	1,030	1,335	1,275	5,215
		Rented	6,530	865	1,020	965	965	810	1,905

# CHAPTER IV

## AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION

### LAND UTILISATION AND RECLAMATION

#### Cultivated Area

The statement below gives the decennial figures of net i.e., the purely cultivated area in the district in 1941, 1961 and 1974 :

Year	Cultivated area (in hectares)	Per cent of total area
1941	3,40,195	44.2
1961	4,13,128	53.6
1974	4,86,014	72.6

#### Culturable Land

Forest land, groves, land prepared for sugar cane, fallows, waste lands like pastures and grazing areas and land often classified as uncultivable due to excess of sand or *reh* (alkali) or on account of ravine-scouring or overgrowth of dhak and other pernicious varieties of vegetation constitutes culturable land in the district. The figures of area of culturable land in the district in 1941, 1961 and 1974 are given below :

Year	Culturable land (in hectares)
1941	8,87,590
1961	3,01,510
1974	1,36,556

The culturable area of 1,36,556 hectares in 1973-74, included 34,852 hectares under forests, 9,921 hectares under groves, 3,989 hectares under culturable waste, 2,282 hectares under pastures and grazing grounds, besides fallow land which measured 50,390 hectares. Barren and *usar* lands in the district claimed 627 hectares and the area of the land put to non-agricultural uses, e.g., land covered with water, roads, railway lines, buildings and graveyards was 70,675 hectares.

#### Precarious Tracts

Floods and inundations rather than drought more commonly visit the district. The overflowing waters of the Chauka cause devastation, especially in the Dhaurahra, Firozabad and Srinagar parganas.

Saturation is also liable to take place in the western portions of the Muhamli and Passawan parganas beyond the Gomati, in the northern part of Aurangabad where there is a large area of lowlying swamps, in Paila and the south of Huidurabai, where the *jhils* swell and damage the fields, in the east of Kubra-Mailani and in Kasta. Drought, on the contrary usually affects the trans-Gomati tract and the area between the Gomati and the Kathna. The central portion between the Kathna and the Ul suffers relatively less damage from drought. During the last four decades the irrigation department of the State has constructed nearly 300 km. of channels in the district for improving drainage and minimising damage to crops.

### Soil Conservation

Land worst affected by soil erosion measured 64,120 hectares in 1973-74. This area does not cover all the waste land in the district. It includes only that land which is actually under cultivation or is fit for cultivation. In 1970-71, the district adopted the soil conservation scheme with the establishment of a unit at Lakhimpur. It aimed at applying the soil and water resources to intelligent uses through scientific measures like levelling, bunding, canalising, check-damming, summer ploughing, contour-sowing, strip-and-cover cropping, and other improved agronomical practices.

The following statement gives the area of land covered under various soil conservation works from 1971-72 to 1973-74:

Works taken up	Area in hectares		
	1971-72	1972-73	1973-74
Survey	9,010	1,276	2,290
Soil conservation work done	—	5,517	2,020

### IRRIGATION

The entire northern tract roughly comprising Nighasan tahsil, being terai, does not require irrigation. The same applies to the lowlying parganas of Lakhimpur tahsil which come under the influence of the Chauka. In the rest of the district, the chief sources of irrigation were wells, tanks and *jhils* till the opening of the Sarda canal in 1929.

The statement below gives the figures of gross irrigated area in the district in the years 1951-52, 1961-62 and 1973-74 :

Year	Gross irrigated area (in hectares)	Per cent of gross cropped area
1951-52	20,483	4.6
1961-62	19,557	3.8
1973-74	78,350	18.09

### Means of Irrigation

The statement below gives the extent of the areas irrigated from canals, wells (including tube-wells and other sources) in 1951-52, 1961-62 and 1978-74 :

Year	Area irrigated from wells (including tubewells) (in hectares)	Area irrigated from canals (in hectares )	Area irrigated from other sources (in hectares)
1951-52	4,654	12,626	2,688
1961-62	8,872	8,782	1,280
1978-74	19,607	5,740	1,077

**Wells**—Wells and tube-wells constitute an important source of irrigation in the district. Masonry wells which were few in the past have multiplied in recent years particularly, in the last two decades. The earthen wells vary in construction and the manner of their use, according to the level of underground water. This averages about 7 metres in the tract south of the UI, but the variations are great, from 12 metres in Magdapur to 8 metres in the depressions of Paila. Water is usually drawn by *pur* (a large skin bucket) generally with the aid of animals, but not infrequently by four men, the *pur* being, due to the latter circumstance, locally known as *chaujania*. The *dhenkli* or pot-and-lever system is also in use for lifting water. The earthen wells which are generally supported by a lining of *arhar* stalks or dhak wood, seldom remain serviceable for more than a year owing to friability of soil.

From 1952 onwards, the government have taken steps to construct State tube-wells and encourage cultivators to install pumping-sets and other water-lifting machines at wells owned by them. Consequently, the pit-wells have lost their importance. The following data is interesting in this context:

Year	Number of wells	
	Kutcha	Pakka
1951-52	7,849	568
1961-62	1,658	269
1978-74	3,480	267

The area irrigated by wells was 2,394 hectares in 1978-74.

The government, besides taking up a big programme of construction of State tube-wells, has also provided liberal financial assistance to the cultivators to set up their own private irrigation works like construction and boring of wells, and installation of *rahats* (Persian wheels), diesel or electric pumping sets and tube-wells.

In 1951, there were no State tube-wells in the district but in the next five years their number rose to 151 which again mounted to 275 at the end of 1973 providing irrigation to nearly 15,000 hectares. By the end of 1976 it is proposed to construct 40 more tube-wells in the district under the '10,000 Tube-wells' project of the State Irrigation department, adding another 6,400 hectares to the irrigated area of the district.

Liberal financial assistance for private minor irrigation works has been provided by the government since 1957, resulting in a rapid expansion of such works in the last five years. The progress achieved is indicated below :

Works completed	1969-70	1970-71	1971-72	1972-73	1973-74
Masonry wells	1,964	2,106	1,215	1,803	1,306
Installation of <i>rahats</i> (Persian wheels)	807	866	852	858	858
Installation of pumping sets	2,656	4,165	5,982	2,121	4,312
Construction of private tube-wells	3,269	4,248	8,442	3,973	4,506
Area irrigated by these works (in hectares)	56,692	53,669	55,103	55,915	50,005

**Canals** —In the period preceding the attainment of Independence by the country the only major irrigation work undertaken was the construction of the Sarda canal which was completed in 1929, and the district is one of those districts of Avadh which have been benefited by it. The major part of the district comprising tahsils Lakhimpur and Muhamdi is irrigated by the Sitapur branch of this canal, while the Kheri branch covers the rest of the district. A small part of tahsil Muhamdi is also irrigated by the Hardoi branch of the Sarda canal. The total length of these branches and their distributary channels, in the district was nearly 500 km. in 1976.

From 1950 to 1966, the average area of the district annually irrigated by these canals fluctuated around 12,000 hectares. In the late sixties, a number of new channels were constructed, augmenting the irrigation potential. In 1971-72, the area irrigated was 17,169 hectares and it went up to 27,485 hectares in 1973-74.

To augment the capacity of these canals, especially during the years of drought, the Sarda Sahayak Project was taken up in 1968. It aims at constructing barrages on the Sarda in this district and on the Ghaghra near Kitatnanghat, in the Bahraich district, and diverting their surplus waters through 270 km. long feeder channels into various sections of the existing branches of the Sarda canal. The first phase of the project was completed in 1974.

### AGRICULTURE INCLUDING HORTICULTURE

#### Land and Soils

The district may be divided into four main tracts. The largest tract is the portion towards the north-east of the Ul comprising nearly half of tahsil Lakhimpur and the whole of tahsil Nighasan. It is cut up by innumerable rivers and rivulets, and is liable to floods and generally unhealthy. The northern portion contains forests and the cultivation is generally precarious. The Kauriyala leaves behind it coarse and unfertile sand; the Chauka and the Dahawar generally leave a fine deposit in which good rice can be grown, but they too, like the Kauriyala bring down sand when in heavy flood. The water is bad. The second, lying between the Ul and the Kathna, is the most fertile part of the district. It has a good loam soil, but along the banks of the rivers the land is often sandy and inferior; clay soil occurs in the low-lying parts mostly towards the south-west portion of the tract. The third tract which lies between the Kathna and the Gomati, commonly called Parchar, is high and sandy. The fourth tract is the trans-Gomati tract on the extreme south-west. Its western portion is low-lying and is covered in places with grassy wastes and dhak jungle. In the centre it contains a belt of fertile loam, but to the east, along the Gomati, the land is sandy.

The soils in this district are generally those found commonly in north Avadh : sandy *bhur* in the more elevated portions and along the high banks of the rivers, loam or *dumat* in the level uplands; and *matiar* or clay in the depressions. All these are, however, capable of much variation. There is, for instance, a great difference between the loam left as an alluvial deposit by the Chauka after the annual floods and the light but fertile soil which is called by the same name in the Kheri pargana and elsewhere. The former is often distinguished, as in Sitapur district, by the name of *pan*; it yields fine crops for a short time, but is quickly exhausted. Another peculiar soil is that known as *tapar*, which is found beyond the Chauka; it is light and gritty and of very poor productive power. It is locally classed as *bhur* but is very different from soil generally so named. Clay also varies from the stiff unworkable variety in which rice can alone be grown and that too after abundant rain, to a much more tractable kind in Nighasan and Khairigarh, where it is held in high esteem. It has been found that this classification of the soil is much too rough to be a safe guide in assessing lands in the various parganas of the district to revenue, according to their potential fertility. A separate class was, therefore, allotted to the highly cultivated lands in the immediate vicinity of the homesteads and was classified as *goind*. *Bhur* also was separately classified. Loam or *dumat* was equated with *manjhari* and clay with *palo*, the usual term for outlying and casual cultivation. Generally speaking, it may be said that most of the *bhur* is found in the Muhamdi tahsil, clay is always to be found in the depressions, especially in Paila and Kukra, along the border of the district of Shahjahanpur, the Kunawat tract in Khairigarh, and along the Jamwari in Kheri. The highest percentage of *goind* is to be found in Kheri, Haidarabad and in part of Muhamdi tahsil.

According to the survey of soils in the district conducted by the agriculture department in 1974-75, it has two types of well-defined and distinct soils differing from one another in their geological formations.

These are the terai tract in the north and the alluvium tract in the south. In the terai tract, soils have been formed by the alluvial and fluvial action of the rivers and rivulets which traverse it. In lower depths very often parent gravel is found. These soils vary in texture from place to place and can broadly be classified as clayey loam, loam and sandy loam. The natural vegetation of this tract are forests and long grasses. The soils in this tract are very productive, possessing reserves of nitrogen. The whole of tahsil Nighasan forms part of the above tract.

The alluvium tract has been formed by deposits made by the rivers and their tributaries. These deposits are of considerable thickness. Agriculturally these soils are highly productive and respond favourably to fertilizer application. Texturally there are variations from place to place. The soils can be classified into loam and sandy loam. The whole of Mithamdi tahsil has soils which are either loam or sandy loam. The soil of Lakhimpur tahsil is mostly loamy.

### Harvests

The methods of cultivation in this district are, generally speaking, the same as in other districts of Avadh; but, as between the various parganas in the district, marked variation in the standards of husbandry, manuring, mixed cropping and rotation of crops, used to prevail before the emphasis on the employment of improved agricultural practices commenced to make itself felt after about the middle of the current century. *Kharif*, *rabi* and *zaid* are the usual harvests. The *kharif* or autumn crops are sown in Asadha-Sravana and reaped in Asvina-Kartika, after the cessation of rains and usually well before the preparation of fields for the *rabi* spring sowings which begin in October-November i.e., Kartika and Agrahayana and are harvested in March-April and even May. The *zaid* or the extra crop consists of cucurbitaceae, vegetables, spices, tobacco, certain varieties of early maize, legumes and a host of low-grade cereals, and melons which cover a comparatively small area. It is comparatively of very little importance. The double-cropped area (*dofasli*), more correctly, the area cropped more than once in the year, is sufficiently large. A good deal depends on the nature of the soil, supply of water and the choice of crops. Double-cropping is mostly practised in those parts of the district where much of the land is ordinarily under sugar-cane, paddy or *arhar* and where there is an abundant supply of water for irrigation or where the situation of the terrain is such that watering of the fields is not necessary as the terai area in the north of tahsil Nighasan.

The relative figures of area covered by the *kharif* and *rabi* crops and/or sown more than once are given below for the years 1951-52, 1961-62 and 1973-74 :

Years	Area under <i>kharif</i> crops (inhectares)	Area under <i>rabi</i> crops (inhectares)	<i>Dofasli</i> area (inhectares)
1951-52	2,73,805	1,68,786	66,956
1961-62	3,88,686	2,21,447	1,27,907
1973-74	3,82,491	2,28,066	1,24,733

## Principal Crops

**Kharif.**—Rice is by far the most important crop of the season and occupies more than one-third of the total area sown. There has been an enormous increase in the extent of paddy cultivation during the last few decades. Several local varieties of paddy are grown, the species varying with the nature of the soil. In the lowlands, *jarhan* (transplanted) paddy is most common, but the crop is raised in a slavey manner. Elsewhere, transplantation is not generally practised. Beyond the Chauka paddy is almost invariably sown broadcast. Elsewhere the principal kind is known as *anjani*, which is quite frequently mixed with *kodon*, presumably to counter-balance loss of one constituent cereal with a gain in the other, in the event of failure of rains. A normal precipitation gives good yield from both the crops. The mixed are called *dhangundwa*. Some of the rice produced is of good quality, especially that grown around Aliganj in pargana Bhura. An excellent variety known as *karmand* is produced in the Oel and Paila parganas. The outturn in the lowlands depends on the nature of floods, as the plant dies if it remains entirely submerged for more than a few days; on the other hand, if the rains are late, the area sown is much diminished, as rice is generally grown in clayey lands which must be moistened before they can be ploughed.

Since the opening of the canals in this district, the cultivation of finer and high-yielding varieties of rice has become more popular. *Kodon* was one of the favourite *kharif* cereals in the district up to the fifties of the present century. It occupied an area of 34,617 hectares in the district in 1908-09, tahsil Lakhimpur leading in its cultivation. In the following years *kodon* has yielded place to the more remunerative crops like rice and sugar-cane. This process has been accelerated since the fifties with the introduction of scientific methods in agriculture. The area under *kodon* came down from 25,899 hectares in 1951-52 to 18,211 hectares in 1961-62 and to 8,330 hectares in 1971-72.

Another important *kharif* crop is maize. It is extensively grown in the northern portion of tahsil Lakhimpur and in tahsil Nighasan, competing well with rice. It is most suited to the drier parts of the lowlands.

In comparatively inferior soils and narrow strips of sandy land along the river banks, *bajra* and *jowar* are grown as *kharif* staples.

Among other *kharif* cereals *sawan*, *mandua* and *kutki* and pulses like *urd*, *moong* and *moth* may be mentioned. *Sawan* and *mandua* were among the largely grown crops in the past, but the availability of new incentives in agriculture has lowered their popularity and more valuable crops like rice, maize and sugar-cane are gradually replacing them. In 1971-72, the combined area occupied by *sawan* and *mandua* was 1,670 hectares in the district. Among the pulses *urd*, claimed the largest area.

The following statement gives some relevant details of the main *kharif* cereals grown in the district in the years 1971-72, and 1972-73 :

Kharif crop:	Area sown (hectares)	Total production (tonnes)		Average yield per hectares in the district (in quintals)		Average yield per hectares in the State (in quintals)		
		1971-72	1972-73	1971-72	1972-73	1971-72	1972-73	
Rice	1,29,677	1,17,280	65,919	71,454	5.8	6.09	7.98	7.48
Maize	34,448	49,661	8,021	41,820	2.33	8.42	5.65	9.15
Bajra	2,932	8,981	655	3,120	2.23	7.84	5.58	6.03
Jowar	4,633	5,327	2,125	6,836	4.59	12.83	8.67	7.19
Kodo	8,831	—	3,840	—	4.61	—	4.61	6.19
Urd	6,564	—	509	—	0.78	—	1.86	8.78
Moong	289	—	23	—	0.78	—	1.55	2.55
Moth	31	—	9	—	3.05	—	3.05	4.50

**Rabi**—Wheat heads the list of *rabi* cereals in the district in point of area, which in 1971-72, constituted more than half of the total *rabi* sowing. Wheat is grown alone as well mixed with crops like barley, gram, pea or mustard or their combinations. The area under wheat alone has no doubt, increased during recent years; but the old practice of sowing it mixed with other crops, a characteristic feature of the district, has not altogether disappeared. The wheat crop requires a good soil, careful tillage and an assured supply of water.

In recent years a number of improved and high-yielding varieties of wheat have been evolved at the agriculture university at Pantnagar and various other research institution in the country and they are fast replacing the older ones.

Barley was a favourite *rabi* crop next to wheat in the past, and it maintained its hold till the fifties of the present century when it had an area of 39,044 hectares under it in the district. Thereafter the area under it began to decline. In 1961-62 it covered an area of 27,073 hectares and by 1971-72 limited itself to 10,926 hectares only. Wheat, gram and peas, which are more paying, have taken its place. Generally speaking barley flourishes even in inferior soils and in tracts which are not suited to wheat cultivation for lack of irrigation facilities. Cultivators prefer to sow barley in the newly cleared tracts, because of its being less prone to the depredations of wild animals in the early stage of its growth. Parganas Aurangabad, Magdapur and Paila, with poorer soils, are predominantly barley growing areas.

Gram and peas are the other *rabi* cereals which need mention. Gram is a hardy crop and thrives well in all kinds of soils. It is also mixed with wheat or barley and sometimes with both.

Of the *rabi* pulses only *masur* and *arhar* are important. An interesting feature of the latter is that it is sown with the main *kharif* crops and harvested after most of the *rabi* crops. This is, perhaps, why it is hardly ever sown as a single crop, being usually combined with jowar or bajra which are harvested by November, December, leaving it standing alone in the fields. *Masur* has comparatively a large area in this district surpassing all the districts in the Lucknow Division in 1971-72.

The following statement gives some relevant particulars about the principal *rabi* cereals produced in the district in the years 1971-1972 and 1972-73 :

Rabi crops	Area sown (in hectares)		Total production (in tonnes)		Average yield per hectare in district (in quintals)		Average yield per hectare in State (in quintals)	
	1971-72	1972-73	1971-72	1972-73	1971-72	1972-73	1971-72	1972-73
Wheat	1,37,782	1,36,584	1,31,442	1,14,893	9.54	8.42	12.66	12.25
Barley	11,402	12,963	8,880	8,623	7.79	6.65	10.41	10.00
Gram	41,158	43,006	14,830	24,672	3.48	5.74	7.88	7.61
Pea	1,327	1,424	1,200	995	9.04	6.98	8.36	6.20
Masur	13,558	18,275	7,637	8,330	5.63	6.28	6.85	6.23
Arhar	4,610	6,123	4,226	7,852	9.17	12.82	12.81	15.40

### Non-food Crops

Sugar-cane, oil-seeds like ground-nut, linseed, til and mustard, vegetables and fruits, sunn-hemp, jute, tobacco, spices and condiments, chiefly turmeric, are the main non-food crops of the district.

Sugar-cane is one of the most important cash crops of the district. The area sown under it is on the increase in the district, particularly since the forties of the present century. From 33,590 hectares in 1939-40, it has come to occupy more than 77,170 hectares in 1971-72. Mustard and ground-nut are the main crops among the oil-seeds and they occupy sizeable areas in the district. Vegetables, though they occupy a small area in the district, especially around the towns and large villages, constitute valuable crops. Potato is one of the most important tubers covering an area larger than other vegetables. Sunn-hemp and jute crops occupy significant areas. Turmeric was grown over 60 hectares in 1971-72, notably in the Bhur, Srinagar, Palia and Nighasan parganas.

The statement given below gives some relevant facts about important cash crops raised in the district in the years 1971-72 and 1972-73 :

Non-food crops	Area sown (in hectares)		Total production (in tonnes)		Average yield per hectare in district (in quintals)		Average yield per hectare in State (in quintals)	
	1971-72	1972-73	1971-72	1972-73	1971-72	1972-73	1971-72	1972-73
Sugar-cane	77,179	80,452	23,10,192	29,84,821	299.33	371.01	387.35	433.70
Ground-nut	13,752	16,256	—	5,770	12,190	4.20	7.50	5.59
Mustard	16,110	14,985	—	6,528	7,756	4.05	5.19	3.76
Potato	1,768	1,249	—	16,954	11,862	95.89	94.97	95.89
Sunn-hemp	329	—	—	127	—	3.85	—	3.85
Jute	4,396	4,279	—	86,236	87,798	41.84	15.90	24.84
Tobacco	11	—	—	12	—	10.91	—	8.81

## Improvement of Agriculture

The necessity for augmenting agricultural production was keenly felt during the course of the Second World War. The government, therefore, launched the Grow More Food programme providing several incentives to cultivation for increasing farm output. But a determined policy to bring in improvements in the agricultural sector of the country's economy with a view to achieve self-sufficiency in cereals and other essential commodities of domestic consumption came to be firmly enunciated and pursued only after the Independence of the country in 1947. This district which had large tracts of uncultivated land attracted the farming communities of the Punjab who had been uprooted from their lands in Pakistan and who had to be settled and rehabilitated here. The hitherto neglected and uncared for areas in every district, e.g. terai in this district have received the special attention of the displaced persons. Accordingly within a span of two decades, the whole of the northern terai belt of the State has been turned into not only a granary but also a supplier of high class cereal seeds throughout the country. Improved and scientific methods of growing wheat, barley and other crops and the Japanese method of paddy cultivation have been popularised among the cultivators. These methods include proper tillage, sufficient and timely manuring, sowing of seeds of the high-yielding varieties, proper and timely irrigation and protection of crops against pests and diseases.

The late sixties saw the ushering in of the 'green revolution' under which schemes of intensive cultivation and sowing of high-yielding seeds of wheat, barley, maize, jowar, *bajra*, sugar-cane and other crops have been implemented. The government agriculture farms in the district and various other agencies of the central and State Governments, the food and agriculture organisation of the United Nations and other agricultural research centres are engaged in orienting the farmers for adopting better scientific methods and implements by practical field demonstrations and exhibitions.

### Seed Supply

The popular high-yielding varieties of seeds in the district are exotic paddy and millets, hybrid maize, U.P. wheat and the wheat seeds evolved at the agricultural university, Pantnagar, U.P. Maize and hybrid *bajra* seeds are supplied by the government through the seed stores maintained by the agriculture department and co-operative seed stores. There were 58 seed stores in the district in 1973-74 of which 26 were under the agriculture department and the rest were under the co-operative department. The seed stores however, meet a small fraction of the total requirements of seeds of the farmers, the bulk being supplied by the local dealers.

The seed stores belonging to the agriculture department distributed 2,915 quintals of seeds of cereals in the district in 1973-74 while the seed stores of the co-operative department supplied seeds worth Rs 14,63,981 to the cultivators in that year.

The two seed multiplication farms run by the agriculture department at Sampurnanagar (opened in 1957-58) and at Jamunabad (opened in 1970-71) also supply good quality seeds to the cultivators. These farms are partially mechanised, the one at Sampurnanagar had one tractor and 6 other agricultural machines and the other at Jamunabad had 11 tractors and 47 other mechanical agricultural implements in 1974. The Jamunabad farm produced 2,643 quintals of cereals like wheat, barley, paddy and pea, 45,200 quintals of sugar-cane and 104 quintals of oil-seeds in 1973-74. At the Sampurnanagar farm the output of cereals was 16 quintals, of sugar-cane 136 quintals, and of oil-seeds 2 quintals in the same year. These farms also supply seeds to the farmers for sowing purposes.

Any new seed, before being introduced in this district, is first tested at the regional agricultural research station, Hardoi. The agriculture department has made a programme to saturate the entire area under all crops with the new high-yielding seeds. The success of this programme may be judged from the figures of seed saturation in the district in 1973-74 as given under :

Name of crops	Per cent of seed saturation
Wheat	90
Paddy	50
Jowar	10
Bajra	8
Maize	40
Gram	5
Barley	20
Pea	8
Oil-seeds	40

### Soil Nutrients

Cattle dung, farm refuse and stable litter are the common manures used by the cultivators. The green manure crops like *lobia*, *guar*, *dhaincha*, *sanai* and *moong* provide natural nitrogenous ingredients to the soil and increase its fertility.

The chemical fertilizers, though costly, have also become popular among the cultivators. The increasing demand for such fertilizers has made them scarce as well as dearer.

The seed stores of the agriculture and co-operative departments are able to meet only a fraction of the total demand of the farmers for the chemical fertilizers and green manure seeds and the cultivators usually have to make their own arrangements.

The seed stores of the agriculture department supplied 7,941 tonnes of chemical fertilizers of nitrogenous, phosphatic and potassic groups to the cultivators in 1973-74 while Rs 65,02,634 worth of fertilizers was sold by the co-operative seed stores in the district in the same year. The green manure seeds distributed by the seed stores amounted to 1,669 quintals and nearly 2,550 hectares of area was sown with them in the same year.

## Agricultural Implements and Machines

According to the live-stock census carried out in 1972 there were in the district 803 tractors, 1,41,832 ploughs (including indigenous ones), 1,227 threshers, 524 chaff-cutters (chopping machines), 11,440 sugar-cane crushers, 133 oil-seed crushers (*ghanis*), 7,131 pumping sets, 94 *rahats* (Persian wheels), 94,075 bullock-carts and 5,489 machines for spraying or dusting insecticides and pesticides.

In 1973-74 there were 1,102 tractors, 812 improved iron ploughs, 805 harrows, 278 cultivators, 238 winnowers, 1,562 threshers and 75 seed drills in the district most of which were supplied by the agriculture department.

## Agricultural Co-operatives

The practice of cultivating land jointly (*sajha*) is very old among the cultivators. Co-operative societies have been organised in the villages for farming, distribution of seeds, loans and fertilizers and agricultural implements. In 1974 there were 156 agricultural credit societies, 32 co-operative seed stores for providing chemical fertilizers and seeds to the cultivators and 21 co-operative farming societies in the district. The seed stores provided seeds worth Rs 14,80,981 and chemical fertilisers worth Rs 65,09,634 and the farming co-operative societies had a total agricultural output worth Rs 15,67,101 in the year 1973-74. With the aim of protecting the cultivators from exploitation by unscrupulous traders and to provide them fair price for their agricultural produce, agricultural marketing societies have been organised in the district which numbered 5 in 1973-74. They are functioning at Lakhimpur, Gola, Palia, Nighasan and Maigalganj. The total share capital of these societies amounted to Rs 8,82,620 in 1973-74. They handled agricultural produce worth Rs 19,58,418 and supplied to the member farmers agricultural requirements valued at an amount of Rs 34,58,993 in the same year.

## Horticulture

The following statement gives the figures of grove area under fruits and orchards in the district in 1961-62 and 1971-72 :

Year	Area (in hectares)
1961-62	82,758
1971-72	20,377

Mango is the favourite fruit but guava and banana are also frequently grown. A great deal has also been done by way of roadside and canal bank plantations, the trees mostly planted being *shisham*, *jamun*, mango and *siris*.

There is no government horticultural garden or nursery in the district. The horticulture department and its staff in the district arrange the supply of saplings, seeds, seedlings, of fruit trees and vegetables to the farmers, obtained from outside the district mainly Lucknow, which is one of the largest horticultural stations in the State. There were 5 private nurseries in the district in 1973-74 situated at Lakhimpur, Kukra, Gola Road, Sethghat and Sadhauna. A sizeable amount of the demand for saplings of various kinds of trees is also locally met from the vast forest stocks in the district.

The following statement gives the figures of saplings of trees and seeds and seedlings of vegetables distributed by the horticulture department in the district in the last three years :

Saplings/ Seedlings/ Seeds distributed	1972-73	1973-74	1974-75
Saplings of trees (nos)	21,800	31,280	47,923
Seedlings of vegetables (nos.)	5,10,000	81,14,780	14,92,520
Seeds of vegetables (kg )	2,490	8,185	8,862

### State Aid to Agriculture

The agriculture department provides *taqavi* to the cultivators for purposes like the purchase of chemical fertilizers, implements, seeds, pesticides, bullocks and those related to the development of agriculture. In the period 1969-70 to 1973-74, the total amount of such *taqavi* advanced to the cultivators was Rs 1,15,35,235.

Since January, 1975 the agriculture department has taken up a scheme named 'the small and marginal farmers development agency' sponsored by the Government of India and an amount of Rs 150 lakhs will be spent under the scheme. It is intended to benefit farmers having agricultural holdings of up to 2 hectares, by providing them with implements, seeds and other requisites of agriculture, facilities for irrigation like pumping sets, oil-engines and helping in easy and profitable marketing of their produce. It is estimated that in all nearly 50,000 farmers in the district will benefit from this scheme.

The co-operative societies which numbered 156 in the district in 1974 and the district co-operative federation and the U.P. Rajya Sahkari Bhumi Vikas Bank, both at the headquarters town, also provide short-term and medium-term loans to the cultivators. In the period 1969-70 to 1973-74, short-term loans amounting to Rs 98,16,136 and medium-term loans amounting to Rs 24,22,090 were made available by these co-operative institutions to the farmers. The co-operative department has recently taken up a new scheme called the 'master plan' which aims at providing financial assistance to poor farmers with small holdings. Under this scheme government provided through the district co-operative bank, loans amounting to Rs 7,82,000 in 1972-73 and Rs 4,95,390 in 1973-74.

## Multiple Cropping and Rotation of Crops

The practice of simultaneously growing more than one crop in a single field more or less in a single season gives additional harvest, thus increasing the overall yield and ensuring maximum use of the soil and nutrients. If there is a danger of loss to one of the crops due to adverse weather conditions or pests or diseases, there are chances of saving at least the other crops in the field if the system of multiple cropping is adopted. *Ahar* is almost always sown with *jowar*, *urd*, *til* or ground-nut, wheat with gram, pea or mustard, barley with gram or pea or both, maize with *urd* and ground-nut with *guar*. Potato is generally mixed with *methi* (fennugreek) or onion, sugar-cane with *moong* and the rainy season vegetables and late paddy with *dhania* (coriander) or *methi*. Chillies and turmeric being notable crops in the district are also sown in combination with castor.

The common rotations of crops prevalent in the district are wheat, gram or pea after paddy, *lahi* or mustard or sugar-cane after green manure crop, wheat after maize or potato, onion after maize and wheat after sugar-cane (*ratoon*) or after ground-nut.

## Agricultural Diseases and Pests

The three main enemies of crops are animals, birds and insects. A large number of plant diseases, fungi and weeds also cause damage to plants. Monkeys, field rats, squirrels, wild animals like nilgai, jackals, bats and parrots are a deadly menace to the crops. Usual methods of protection adopted by the farmers are fencing, keeping watch or billing. Among plant diseases leaf-mosaic, rust, smut and termite attack wheat, barley and pea crops. Paddy is mostly affected by mosaic, blight and the *gundhi* bug. Potatoes and other vegetables are generally damaged by blight, mosaic and pinkboll-worm. The canker and wither-tip take heavy toll of citrus fruits. Mingo and guava orchards are the worst sufferers from die-back, black-tip, wither-tip and damping off seedlings. Sugar-cane crops are worst affected by pyrilla, termite and shoot borer. With the introduction of modern methods of plant protection various insecticides and pesticides like Aldrin, BHC, and numerous others are sprayed and dusted over the crops for the prevention and cure of plant diseases.

There are many leafy growths like *bathua*, *kulfa* and weeds which are also harmful to the crops. These are overcome by systematic and timely weeding, interculturing and deep ploughing of fields.

The plant protection department, with its trained personnel posted in the district, provides free advice to the cultivators about raising healthy crops of fruits, vegetables and cereals, and taking up timely measures for protection of plants from diseases and pests. They also provide insecticides, spraying and dusting apparatuses and the services of trained workers at moderate rates of payment.

The work done by the plant protection department in the district in 1973-74 is shown by the figures given in the following statement :

Programme undertaken	Area (in hectares)
Seed treatment	41,090
Rat control	88,258
Polyphagous pest control	11,018
Spraying and dusting	16,497
Weed control	8,472

### Animal Husbandry and Fisheries

With its large areas of forests and extensive grazing grounds, Kheri is the chief cattle-breeding district in Lucknow Division, and the animals raised here and exported to the less favoured tracts constitute a valuable source of income. Large numbers of draught bullocks of fair quality are supplied to all the adjoining districts. The bullocks are of larger size and have rough and coarse hair, a heavy dewlap, thick but often small and blunt horns, large bones and small but fleshy legs, with toes widely set apart. They are said to be good for heavy draught work, but are very slow movers with a sluggish and gentle temper. Camels are rarely used in the district being unsuited to the climate here. The use of mechanised means of transportation and communication and the high cost of maintaining domestic animals in the district, has tended to reduce the number of draught animals such as horses, elephants, ponies and donkeys which were used for purposes of travel, taking out processions and in different ways at festivals and fairs. The erstwhile zamindars of the district also kept horses and elephants, but, the abolition of zamindari has led to a big decrease in the number of these animals. The live-stock populations of the district according to the censuses of 1966 and 1972, were as follows :

Live-stock	1966	1972
Cattle	6,26,925	6,21,511
Buffaloes	2,60,765	2,15,877
Goats	2,10,480	1,61,558
Sheep	80,878	19,638
Pigs	10,956	18,743

Sheep and goats are generally reared by the Gadariyas, for their flesh and skins. Goat milk is also in demand. Wool obtained from the sheep is used industrially for manufacturing coarse blankets. They are also penned on agricultural land, a considerable sum being realised by the shepherds from the cultivators in return for the manure they sheep provide.

### **Development of Live-stock**

Considerable progress has been made in the last few decades in improving the breed of the cattle through selective breeding, eliminating undesirable animals and upgrading the progeny of indigenous cattle by improved bulls of well-known and tried breeds, and distribution of seeds of improved varieties of fodder and feed at moderate prices. Artificial insemination for improving the breed of cows and buffaloes was started in the district in the first Plan period and there were 9 centres and 11 subcentres for the purpose in 1973-74. The government supplies bulls of the Murrah and Haryana breeds at concessional rates, especially in areas which are not covered by the artificial insemination centres. Loans are also provided to the cultivators for the purchase of cows and buffaloes of improved breeds.

For improving the breed of sheep and goats, stud rams and bucks of Barbari and Jamunapari breed are stationed at all veterinary hospitals in the district. Steps have also been taken to encourage piggery in the district. At Nighisan a piggery development centre has been established by the government. White Yorkshire pigs are being distributed among the interested parties at nominal rates of contribution to improve the local breed.

The animal husbandry department has established two live-stock-cum-mechanised farms at Manjhra and Andeshnagar in the district for the purpose of live-stock and poultry development in these areas. They also provide improved breeds of animals and birds and eggs of improved kinds of birds for hatching.

### **Poultry Development**

In 1972, there were 1,25,559 poultry in the district, of which 1,24,908 were hens and cocks, 207 ducks and drakes and 444 other birds. To encourage poultry farming as a subsidiary industry in the rural areas, the government also arranges supply of birds of improved breeds.

### **Cattle Diseases and Treatment**

The common cattle diseases are rinderpest (*pokna* or *rez*), malignant sore throat (*galaghontu*), black-quarter (*padsuja*), anthra (*tilsuja*), dysentery (*pechish*), and foot-and-mouth disease (*khurha*). Old superstitions and taboos still prevail among the villagers due to which they are reluctant to adopt modern medicines and methods of treatment for the prevention and cure of animal diseases. However, they are changing their views in the matter now after the opening of veterinary hospitals and stockman centres in the district. As a result of practical demonstrations and publicity carried out by the animal husbandry department, people are taking to the modern methods of treatment provided at these hospitals and centres.

The district live-stock officer is in charge of the animal husbandry work in the district. Another officer looks after the artificial insemination work. There were 20 veterinary hospitals and 28 stockman centres in 1973. They provide treatment to the cattle in the district.

The statement below gives the number of cattle treated, vaccinated and castrated in the dispensaries in the years 1973-74 and 1974-75 :

Service provided to cattle	1973-74	1974-75
Treatment	1,80,816	1,85,742
Vaccination	3,57,906	8,89,863
Castration	21,127	19,860

### Housing and Feeding

Domestic animals are generally housed in thatched cattle sheds. Pakka well ventilated hyres with roofs of iron or asbestos sheets are provided only by government or the well-to-do farmers. Community cattle sheds in the villages, are not yet popular, although government gives grants of money for setting them up.

Grazing facilities are provided by *gaon sabhas* or the forest department in areas under their respective control. Owners allow grazing in their groves and harvested or fallow fields. On the canal banks and either side of the railway lines, cattle are allowed to graze under stipulated conditions. In 1973-74 the total area covered by grazing grounds was 2,282 hectares. Waste lands, forests, fallows and other barren and unculturable land which also serve as pasture measured 1,86,556 hectares in the same year.

Maize, jowar, *bajra*, *barseem* and *lobia* also provide fodder for the cattle. The husk and dried and crushed stalks of wheat, barley, *arhar*, *urd*, *moong*, pea, gram and paddy are also used as animal feed. The seed stores of the agriculture and co-operative departments provide to the cultivators seeds of nutritious fodder crops. The area covered by the fodder crops in the district in 1971-72, was 42,013 hectares.

### Fisheries

The rivers and lakes of the district contain fish of all the usual varieties. The *mahseer* is to be found in all the larger rivers, while the other varieties are those common to the adjoining districts. Fish are caught by the rod and line, nets and wicker baskets or traps of various descriptions as well as the spear or *pachki*. There are but few professional fisherman, but numbers of Mallahs and Kahars and Muslims resort to fishing as a subsidiary means of subsistence. There were 3,093 fishing nets and tackles in the district in 1972.

The government supplies fence-lags to the pisciculturists at concessional rates under the 'small waters scheme' and to gaon panchayats, co-operatives, schools and like institutions under the 'applied nutrition programme.'

#### FORESTRY

Being situated in the terai, the district has a considerable area under forests. In the areas adjoining the forests people pursue occupations based upon forest products. Some of these may be named as wood-cutting for timber, and wood carving, making of toys, agricultural implements like ploughs and bullock carts, furniture and fuel collection. Grass is used for making ropes, strings and thatching sheds. The *khair* tree yields *kattha* or *catoch*, and the *dhak*, though found in scattered patches, is used for the lining of kutcha wells, manufacture of charcoal and as firewood. Its flowers produce a kind of red dye. The *babul* tree provides excellent wood for making cart wheels and agricultural implements. Its bark is also used in tanning. The *shisham* tree yields wood which is considered very good for furniture making, door frames, almirahs, boxes and beds.

The chief forest products are sal timber and fuel and the subsidiary produce includes grass, honey, gum, *khas*, cane, herbs and reeds.

The following statement shows the figures of total quantities of the chief forest products in the district in 1970-71 and 1971-72 :

Year	Quantity of timber (cubic metres)	Quantity of fire- wood (cubic metres)
1970-71	3,44,449	1,91,277
1971-72	3,35,449	1,75,858

The quantities of the subsidiary products and their values in rupees in 1971-72 are given below :

Name of forest product	Production (in quintals)	Approximate value (in rupees)
Baib grass	11,040	12,700
Honey and gum	48	23,000
Other grasses including <i>munj</i> and <i>narkul</i>	28,238	40,860
Monkeys (No.)	239	28,950
Khas	328	5,000
Cane	—	14,200
Fish	—	1,34,000
Herbs and medicinal plants	—	1,525
Green leaves of sal	90	5,100

### NATURAL CALAMITIES

#### Famines and Floods

Owing to its geographical position, the district is not liable to suffer severely from famines. The rainfall is never so deficient as to cause the entire loss of the harvest. Till the opening of the railways in the district in 1887 considerable distress was felt in the years of famines on account of the scarcity of food-grains of which, owing to the inaccessibility of the tract, the importation from abroad was practically impossible.

In this district famine does not necessarily so often result from deficiency in rainfall as from the early stoppage of the monsoon, which prevents the *kharif* harvest from maturing and reduces the area sown in *rabi*. The records of early famines are very meagre. Tradition has it that there was a severe distress in 1769 and again in the great famine of 1783 when very heavy mortality occurred from starvation. There was scarcity in 1865, 1869 and 1874, caused on every occasion, by deficiency of rainfall.

The next scarcity occurred in 1877 and was specially severe in the tract lying to west of the Kathna river, partly owing to the shortage of rainfall during the monsoon season especially in July and August and partly due to the extensive exportation of food-grains from the district which had been going on since the beginning of the year.

The agriculturists managed fairly well throughout the scarcity but the labourers and those who lived on fixed wages suffered to a considerable extent. The distress continued till the next *kharif* harvest in 1878 but it was insignificant as compared with the distress in the neighbouring districts of Sitapur and Hardoi and only a small measure of relief was found necessary.

No scarcity of any importance occurred in the district till 1896 when the failure of the rains reduced the cultivated area throughout the district. The distress in the district was chiefly caused by the high prices prevailing elsewhere. The relief works undertaken were construction of the Lakhimpur-Shahjahanpur, the Muhamdi-Aurangabad and the Gola-Kukra roads at an expenditure of Rs 6,500. In addition to these, however, poorhouses were maintained and small sums were distributed in gratuitous relief and on minor village improvement works.

A severe famine occurred in 1907-08 when the rains began very late. A poorhouse was opened at Lakhimpur. The relief works provided by the public works department attracted more than 20,000 persons and the number of persons who received gratuitous relief rose to 76,974. However, there was no fodder famine in the district as the reserved forests were thrown open to grazing. A sum of Rs 5,53,000 was advanced to the cultivators for purchasing *rabi* seeds in October, 1907 and an amount of Rs 5,70,000 in June and July, 1908 for the *kharif* sowings. In addition, a sum of Rs 5,000 was advanced for sugar-cane seeds. Suspension of land revenue to the extent of an amount of Rs 2,19,674 and remission to the extent of a sum of Rs 6,49,085 were ordered. The expenditure on different relief measures amounted to Rs 16,87,852.

The occurrence of floods in this district causes more distress than drought because the major rivers change their courses frequently and, in some instances, assume channels in a manner which cannot be foreseen. The rainfall in the district is above the district and State average, and as large areas are low-lying, floods visit the district more frequently than droughts. The swollen rivers also cause soil erosion. Usually the deposit left by them, especially in the northern part of the district, is very infertile and inferior to the older land and soil which are washed away by the strong currents. Consequently the land along the rivers is poor and sandy and this is so in areas cut up by ravines and watercourses as well. The minor streams such as the Sarayan and the Jamawari, which flow in shallow beds are apt to cause heavy damages and extensive floods in wet years. The Chauka is, however, often a beneficial stream inspite of its vagaries. It brings down quantities of rich alluvium locally known as *para* which produces good crop of rice.

The earliest recorded heavy flood in the Chauka occurred about 1880, which caused a great change in the general aspect of pargana Srinagar. The river abandoned its usual channel and adopted a small backwater that ran into the east and south of Srinagar and entered the Kandwa near Mahewa. This change not only destroyed two large and flourishing villages, but also an area of some 180 sq. km. was submerged under water and ruined. About 80 years later the river returned to its old channel; the deserted bed being marked by a stretch of barren sandy soil, locally called *tapar*. Similar tendency was observed in the heavy flood of 1895 when the river adopted the course of the Dahawar.

The heaviest flood ever recorded occurred in the district in 1928. Large areas in the district were completely flooded and the rivers overflowed their banks to an unprecedented extent. Roads, bridges, railway lines and crops were damaged. The actual damage done naturally varied in different parts of the district, but those parts which suffered most were parganas Kukra, Paila, Muhamdi and Magdapur. An amount of Rs 3,87,268 was promptly distributed in the form of *tagavi* and a district flood relief fund was opened, the subscriptions towards which amounted to Rs 10,000. Relief parties were sent out to the flooded areas and food and clothing were liberally distributed. Collection of land revenue amounting to Rs 68,417 was suspended.

Owing to excessive rainfall at the end of September and beginning of October, 1924, the Sarda river came down in very heavy flood. The river rose with alarming rapidity and broke all known records. Nearly 288 villages were flooded along its banks. Crops were damaged very heavily. An amount of Rs 59,951 was distributed as *tagavi* free of interest. A relief fund was also opened towards which Rs 18,919 were subscribed in the district. Relief was given by providing articles of food and clothing, seeds, and building materials. Revenue amounting to Rs 3,424 was remitted and the collection of revenue amounting to Rs 3,718 was suspended. These two floods in successive years seriously impoverished the agriculturists in the district.

The district is now largely protected against severe famines because of the very considerable irrigation facilities now provided by the canals, State and private tube-wells and minor irrigation works like wells, pumping sets, and *rahats* (Persian wheels), of which the numbers have been steadily going up since the fifties of the present century. Scarcity, natural calamities, excessive rainfall and accidental fires which occur in the district in some years are relieved by timely measures taken by the government and the district officials such as ordering the suspension or remission of land revenue, disbursement of grants and loans and providing means of living to the needy by employing them in test works like the construction of roads and canals.

The following statement gives some relevant details of the size of monetary relief given to the people on the occasions of natural calamities like excessive rainfall, floods and fires, which have hit the district in recent years :

Year	Relief provided (in Rs)		Amount of revenue suspended (in Rs)	Amount of reve- nue re- mitted (in Rs)
	Gratui- tous	Loans		
1966-67	19,178	1,22,750	8,688	8,688
1967-68	7,270	11,400	10,501	10,501
1968-69	22,780	37,500	2,10,297	2,97,297
1969-70	1,32,000	70,000	4,79,813	43,883
1970-71	7,287	4,37,580	6,86,026	3,07,979
1971-72	34,65,000	66,55,500	40,00,970	3,07,041
1972-73	7,00,000	18,95,000	2,74,171	3,80,209
1973-74	1,12,000	1,19,000	66,239	92,428
1974-75	1,84,000	3,20,000	4,91,868	8,26,474

## CHAPTER V

### INDUSTRIES

#### Old-time Industries

Of the old-time industries, weaving and printing of cotton fabrics, though not of a high standard, were carried on mainly at Kheri, Amirtaganj and other places in the Kheri pargana, but this industry declined under the stress of competition offered by cotton cloth imported from western countries especially England. The brass-ware cottage industry has of old occupied an important place in the district where it was centred mainly around Oel. Different types of brass utensils were manufactured by skilled workers who had earned a name for themselves. In 1956 there were 180 units engaged in this industry but their number came down to 56 in 1974. The introduction of aluminium and stainless steel utensils dealt a great blow to this industry.

The manufacture of catechu is also an old and important industry of the district, as there are forests of *khair* trees which supply the raw material for this seasonal industry which is worked from November to February. As the indigenous method of manufacture is not efficient, the workers do not get proper returns. The industry is, therefore, on the decline.

The *khandsari*, and *gur* manufacturing and the lumbering industries are also important in the district in which, while several sugar refineries are scattered throughout, they are mainly located in Muhamdi tahsil. The cane-juice was boiled into *gur* and was exported to Shahjahanpur district. Of the forest products, the main item was timber which was exported to the neighbouring districts in various forms. The other important exports of the district were charcoal, hides, horns, and molasses.

The main causes of the decay of the old-time industries were the lack of government assistance, lack of markets and competition by mill-made goods.

#### Power

The district has been electrified by U.P. Electricity Board, after taking over charge from the government in 1960.

In 1970 the total consumption of power in the district was 1,98,31,458 units, which increased to 3,88,17,167 units in 1974, and the per capita consumption of units has also increased from 13 units in 1971 to 23 units in 1974.

The consumption of power and its percentage in various sectors of the economy in 1974 is given below :

Sector	Total consumption of power (in units)	Percentage consumption of power
Agriculture	1,24,27,818	36.75
Industries	1,78,80,783	51.45
Domestic	32,59,688	■.62
Commercial	59,465	0.17
Others	6,80,468	2.01

**Rural Electrification**—By 1967 only 269 villages had been electrified in the district. In 1970 the number of villages electrified in the district which contains 1770 villages rose to 399, and to 695 in 1973, the percentage of electrified villages coming to 22.54. The largest number of such villages (205) was in tahsil Muhamdi and the smallest in tahsil Nighasan (76).

### Large-scale Industries

Sugar and the by-products of the sugar industry, such as molasses, alcohol and confectionery are produced in large-scale units, located at Aira, Gola Gokarannath and Palia Kalan. There were three large-scale units in the district in 1974, giving employment to 2,647 persons. The total investment in these industries amounted to Rs 15.9353 crores and the value of their products amounted to Rs 21.9114 crores in 1978-74.

**Sugar**—The Govind Sugar Mill, Aira, Hindustan Sugar Mill Limited, Gola Gokarannath, and Sharda Sugar and Allied Industries Limited, Palia Kalan, established in 1922, 1929 and 1967 respectively are engaged in producing crystal sugar, molasses, spirit and confectionery. Crystal sugar worth Rs 21.28 crores, spirit worth Rs 37.69 lakhs, molasses worth Rs 2.12 lakhs and confectionery worth Rs 43.33 lakhs were produced by these industrial units.

Sugar production being a seasonal industry, the mills operate between the months of November and March. Sugar-cane, coal and chemicals are the raw materials used in the industry. The Hindustan Sugar Mill, Gola Gokarannath, is the biggest mill in the district and famous for manufacturing confectionery (toffees and sweetmeats).

The following statement gives particulars in regard to investment, production and value of raw materials used in each unit in 1973-74:

Mill	Total investment (in Rs)	Value of raw materials used (in Rs)	Production value (in Rs)
Govind Sugar Mill, Aira	219.86 lakhs	3.05 crores	4.44 crores Sugar 1.08 lakhs Molasses
Hindustan Sugar Mill, Gola Gokarannath	997.01 lakhs	11.02 crores	13.27 crores Sugar 89.67 lakhs Spirit 48.88 lakhs confectionery
Sharda Sugar and Allied Industries, Palia Kalan	564.67 lakhs	8.48 crores	8.51 crores Sugar 1.09 lakhs Molasses

## Small-scale Industries

Khandsari, woodwork, general engineering, metal ware, agricultural implements, oil from oilseeds, rice pounding, candles, steel furniture, cuttehu hosiery, metal casting and bone crushing are the main small-scale industries of the district. As many as 389 industrial units were registered with the directorate of industries U.P. in 1973-74.

**Khandsari**—The manufacture of *khandsari* sugar is taken up by 57 units, mainly located at Lakhimpur, Bhejam, Muhamdi, Phul Behar, Phaisaiya, Palia Kalan and Nighasan in the district. It is an old-time industry which has survived the vicissitudes of the time and is still flourishing. In 1973-74 the total investment of these units was Rs 189 lakhs, producing *khandsari* sugar worth Re 1 crore and employing 1,140 persons. This industry is seasonal as the crushing of sugar cane begins in September and closes by about the end of April.

**Woodwork**—The manufacture of wooden furniture, frames for doors, windows and beds, wheels for carts and timber work is done by 55 units in the district located at Lakhimpur, Gola Gokarnnath, Mailani, Bhira, Palia Kalan, Muhamdi, Nighasan and Bellasiya. Sal, shisham and teak woods found locally, are used as raw material. The total investment in these units amounted to Rs 8,525 lakhs and the output amounted to Rs 7.60 lakhs in 1974. This industry employed 227 persons in that year.

**General Engineering**—The repair and overhauling of machines by modern tools are undertaken by 27 units, located at Lakhimpur, Palia Kalan, Gola Gokarnnath and Muhamdi in the district. An amount of Rs 3.41 lakhs was invested in the trade in 1974, when job work worth Rs 4.88 lakhs was performed and gave employment to 87 persons.

**Metal Wares**—Utensils of brass and other metals are produced in 25 units, situated mainly at Oel. A sum of Rs 1.65 lakhs was the investment in the industry in 1974, when utensils worth an amount of Rs 8.08 lakhs were manufactured. As many as 76 workers were engaged in the industry in 1974.

**Agricultural Implements**—Ploughs, crushers, buckets and pans for making jaggery are manufactured in 13 units, situated at Lakhimpur, Palia Kalan, Gola Gokarnnath and Muhamdi in the district. In 1974, agricultural implements worth an amount of Rs 2.28 lakhs were produced against the total investment of Rs 1.69 lakh, giving employment to 77 persons.

**Oil-mills**—Oil from oil-seeds and ground-nuts is extracted in 13 units, located at Lakhimpur, Gola Gokarnnath, Palia Kalan and Tirkaulia. An amount of Rs 7.25 lakhs was invested in this industry in 1974. Oil worth Rs 12.9 lakhs was produced. This industry employed 65 persons.

**Rice-mills**—Rice is produced from paddy in 10 units situated at Lakhimpur, Gola Gokarannath, Palia Kalan, Tirkaulia, Bhira and Bellasiya. Pounding of paddy is done in three units. A sum of Rs 12.5 lakhs was invested in the industry in 1974, and rice worth an amount of Rs 14.2 lakhs was produced from paddy. About 80 persons were employed in this industry.

**Candles**—Candles are manufactured in 9 units, located at Lakhimpur, Gola Gokarannath and Mulamdi, in which the investment stood at a sum of Rs 41,000. Candles worth an amount of Rs 51,000 were produced in 1974. These units employed 20 persons. This industry has a local market only.

**Steel Furniture and Other Iron Products**—Steel almirahs, safes, and shutters are manufactured in 5 units, mainly situated at Lakhimpur. A sum of Rs 1.42 lakh was invested in the industry, and articles worth Rs 1.02 lakh were produced in 1974. As many as 26 persons were employed in this industry.

**Catechu Industry**—There are five units located at Nighasan, engaged in manufacturing catechu. It is an old-time industry and *khair* wood found in the district is used as raw material. The total investment in this industry was Rs 5 lakhs and the production amounted to Rs 18 lakhs in 1974. As many as 250 persons were employed in this industry.

**Hosiery**—Vests and other articles are produced in 4 units, located mainly at Lakhimpur. Thread and dyes are used as raw material. A sum of Rs 24,000 was invested and the production was worth Rs 32,000 in 1974. About 9 persons were employed in these units. The produced articles are mainly consumed locally.

**Metal casting**—Four units, located at Lakhimpur are engaged in metal casting. The total investment of this industry was Rs 85,000 and the production amounted to Rs 7,000 giving employment to 17 persons in 1974.

**Bone crushing**—A unit, located at Kheri, with a total investment of Rs 1 lakh is engaged in crushing bones. Bones of wild animals are used as raw material, which is available in the district. In 1974, this unit produced goods worth Rs 12 lakhs, and engaged 18 workers. This industry has a local market.

The following statement gives particulars in regard to investment, production and value of raw materials used in 1974 in each small-scale industry :

Industry	Total investment (in Rs) in lakh	Value of raw material used (in Rs) in lakh	Production (value in Rs) in lakh
Khandsari	189	70	1 crore
Woodwork	8.525	6	7.60 lakhs
General engineering	3.41	0.7	4.88
Metal wares	1.65	1.92	3.08
Agricultural implements	1.69	1.69	2.28
Oil-mills	7.15	10.80	12.9
Rice-mills	12.5	31.36	14.2
Candles	0.41	0.34	0.51
Steel furniture	1.42	0.71	1.04
Catechu	5	10	18
Hosiery	0.24	0.24	0.32
Steel casting	0.85	0.5	0.7
Bone crushing	3	9.6	12

### Village and Cottage Industries

A number of village and cottage industries have been established in the district. Although the techniques of production remain generally those that have been in use from of old, some of them have switched over to modern techniques. These industries are assisted by various organizations, mainly by the U.P. Khadi and village industries board, with whose help the workers have formed societies and each unit consists of one society. The following are some of the more important cottage industries in the district.

**Leather Work**—The industry mainly centres round Muhamdi, Aurangabad, Sainda, Kheri and Gola Gokarannath. The principal products of this industry, which is mainly in hands of traditional shoemakers are shoes. Shoes are made from all kinds of leather. As many as 18 units with 69 persons were engaged in this industry. A sum of Rs 60,257 was invested in this industry when the production amounted to Rs 9,153 in 1974.

**Oil**—Oil from oil-seeds is extracted in 9 units located at Kheri, Gola Gokarannath, Rajapur and Mitauli. Oil from mustard seed and linseed is generally extracted. Oil cakes are the by-product, used as cattle feed. Most of the oil crushers are operated by animals. An amount of Rs 33,009 was invested in the industry and oil worth an amount of Rs 28,825 was produced in 1973-74. About 40 persons were employed in this district.

**Gur**—Gur making is also one of the old-time industries but its importance has greatly declined with the opening of sugar mills in the district. There were 7 units in the district. They produced gur worth Rs 1,95,971 in 1974 and the investment in the industry amounted to Rs 1,24,961. About 90 persons are engaged in these units. The Khadi and village industries board is making efforts to introduce better types of crushers.

**Smithy and Carpentry**—Minor agricultural tools and implements, wheels for carts and doors and other like things are manufactured by 5 units, situated at Lakhimpur, Gola Gokarannath, Nighasan and Singahi Bhadaura. The total investment of these units was Rs 27,489 and the value of the products amounted to Rs 48,890 in 1973-74. As many as 85 persons were engaged in the industry.

**Fibres**—Rope and ropes are manufactured by 2 units located at Behta and Gidhupur. The total investment of these unit was Rs 8,380 while the production was valued at Rs 6,350 in 1973-74. As many as 12 persons were employed in these units.

**Pulses**—Prior to the advent of machines, *dal* splitting by hand was a household industry, giving employment to a large number of men and women. In 1973-74 there was a registered unit producing pulses, located at Singahi Bhadaura. The production was worth Rs 2,560. The total investment was Rs 901 and 5 persons were employed in this unit.

The following statement gives the total investment, the value of the products and number of persons employed in the various cottage industries of the district in 1973-74.

Industries	Total investment (in Rs)	Total production (in Rs)	Number of persons employed
Leather	60,251	9,158	65
Oil	33,009	28,825	42
Gur	1,24,961	1,95,971	88
Smithy and carpentry	27,406	43,890	85
Fibre	8,380	6,350	12
Pulse	901	2,560	5

### Industrial Estates

Two industrial estates were established at Lakhimpur and Gola Gokarannath in 1961.

**Industrial Estate, Lakhimpur**—It was established with 39 plots. By 1974 only 32 plots had been distributed. Only one industrial unit for production of plywood articles (with 5 plots) has started working.

**Industrial Estate, Gola Gokarannath**—It was established with 5 sheds and 8 plots. Though the plots have been distributed not a single unit has started its operations.

### State Aid

Financial assistance to industries is made available by the industries department of the State Government, commercial banks and the Uttar Pradesh Financial Corporation. However, the bulk of the financial assistance is being channelised through the U.P. Financial Corporation.

The U.P. Financial Corporation, Kanpur, extends assistance to industrial concerns on its own behalf and on behalf of the State Government. Its own plan of disbursement is known as the corporation loan scheme, while the loans on behalf of State Government are advanced under the liberalised and ordinary loan schemes. Under the former scheme, loans are advanced at low rates of interest, and for periods extending up to 15 years.

The corporation has been authorised to carry on and transact various types of business, but at present it has confined its activities to the granting of loans to industrial concerns and issue of deferred payments, guarantees to industrial units for the purchase of indigenous machinery from manufacturers and suppliers and acting as an agent of the State Government for various schemes. The corporation can grant loans under the corporation loans scheme to the extent of Rs 80,00,000 to private and public limited companies or registered co-operative societies and Rs 15,00,000 to proprietorship concerns. The rate of interest is 11.5 per cent per annum with a rebate of 2 per cent for prompt payment.

The loans under the ordinary loan scheme and liberalised loan scheme are considered for amounts ranging from Rs 5,000 to Rs 50,000. The applications for loans under the schemes are channelised through the district industries officer of the district. The interest charged is 8 per cent per annum with a rebate of Rs 2 per cent for prompt payment. The loans are recoverable in eight equal instalments. The number of instalments is greater under the liberalised loan scheme. The following statement gives an idea of the loan assistance provided by the corporation in 1973-74.

Scheme	Loans Disbursement (in Rs) as on 31-3-74	
	No. of units	Amount
Corporation Loan Scheme	■	16,93,000
Liberalised Loan Scheme	18	6,19,000
Ordinary Loan Scheme	12	1,18,000

## Potential and Plans for Future Development

With the introduction of improved agricultural implements and techniques, the living standard of the people has risen, providing the district a better base for industrial development. There are bright prospects for the undertaking of new industrial enterprises in the spheres of large-scale, sugar and cottage industries. The existing three sugar-mills do not utilise all the sugar-cane available in the district. This warrants the installation of more such mills in the district. There is also good scope for opening of ancillary units to feed the different large-scale units functioning in the district. For instance, a paper-mill, as a large-scale industry, can be easily set up to utilize the bagasse and grasses readily available from the sugar-mills. The Central Government has issued a licence for the establishment of a paper-mill at a cost of Rs 80 crores at Mailani.

Amongst small-scale industries, a few paper-board production units may be started to utilize the bagasse, the refuse product of sugar-mills, which is now used as fuel. As jute is grown in the district, a jute mill can also be established here instead of all the local jute finding its way to the Kanpur and Calcutta mills as at present. As *khair* wood is found in plenty in the district, and at present the manufacture of catechu is done by indigenous methods, a factory for the manufacture of catechu on modern lines may be established in the district. A factory for manufacture of pencils can also be established. Aluminium utensils are imported from other districts, so there is a good scope for the establishment of this industry also. The demand for cycles and their spare parts has recorded a considerable increase in recent years and the district has the capacity to manufacture these items. New units for the manufacture of machine tools, cement pipes, iron foundry and engineering articles, can also be started to meet their increasing demand. There is scope also for establishment of cold storages and bone crushing mills. The old cottage industries can also be revived.

## Labour Organisation

There were 9 trade unions in the district in 1974, with a total membership of about 1,100 workers. The main objects of these unions are to ensure fair wages, good-living and working condition, proper medical and educational facilities for labourers and their general welfare. They also help in creating a healthy relationship between the employer and employee.

**Labour Welfare**—The Indian Trade Unions Act, 1926, the Employment of Children Act, 1936, the U.P. Maternity Benefit Act, 1938, the Minimum Wages Act, 1948, the State Insurance Act, 1948, the U.P. Industrial Establishments (National Holidays), Act, 1961, and the Motor Transport worker's Act, 1961 are enforced in the district. In 1974 there were 3 labour inspectors in the district, to ensure the enforcement of labour laws, advancement of labour welfare schemes and maintaining liaison between the employees and the employers.

# CHAPTER VI

## BANKING, TRADE AND COMMERCE

### BANKING AND FINANCE

#### History of Indigenous Banking in the District

In the medieval period, the indigenous financing agency comprised wealthy bankers of the towns and the petty village *mahajans* (money-lenders). They conducted large transactions at the chief commercial centres and the courts of local rulers, to whom they sometimes acted, as finance ministers.<sup>1</sup>

Their credit stood so high that their bills of exchange, or *hundis* were negotiable throughout India and even beyond its boundaries. However, the use of *hundis* has now been considerably restricted. The village *mahajan*, who has the advantage of intimate knowledge of the village conditions, however, continues to lend money to the villagers. He charges a very high, and sometimes an exorbitant, rate of interest.

The first bank, the district co-operative bank, Ltd., was established at Lakhimpur in 1928. For the next twenty seven years there was no commercial bank in the district. It was in the fifties of this century that branches of two commercial banks were opened in the district. In the sixties branches of three commercial banks were established, and in the seventies as many as seven branches were opened in the district.

The following statement gives the location and years of establishment of the branches of commercial banks in the district :

Bank and its location	Year of establishment
Punjab National Bank, Lakhimpur	1951
State Bank of India, Lakhimpur	1953
State Bank of India, Muhamdi	1964
Central Bank of India, Tikuniya	1969
Allahabad Bank, Palia Kalan	1969
Allahabad Bank, Lakhimpur	1970
Allahabad Bank, Nighasan	1970
State Bank of India, Gola Gokarannath	1970
State Bank of India, Bhira	1971
State Bank of India, Mailani	1971
Allahabad Bank, Sampurnanagar	1971
State Bank of India, Palia Kalan	1971

<sup>1</sup> *The Imperial Gazetteer of India, The Indian Empire* (Oxford, 1909) Vol. IV p. 392

**Rural Indebtedness** —The condition of the people in the beginning of this century varied with their local surroundings. In the north eastern and portions of the central tracts of the district, despite the general unhealthiness of the climate the precariousness of the cultivation and the depredations of wild animals, the cultivators appear to have been better off, on the whole, than their counterparts in the southern parganas where indebtedness prevailed among them. The absence of capital prevented the cultivators from migrating to unoccupied lands in the centre and north of the district. Owing to their improvidence they were compelled to borrow grain at seed-time when it was scarce and the loan was repaid at harvest, when prices were low. The repayment was made in kind, and amounted to one and a half times the quantity borrowed. If the repayment was deferred for a year, the interest was doubled. The system was known as *deorha* or *derhi*. However when the grain was cheap at seed-time, only *sawaya* (one and one fourth) was charged. Cultivators of sugar-cane, who supplied their produce to the sugar factories generally remained indebted by reason of the system of advances made by the owners of sugar factories. When money was so advanced, no interest was charged, but the price given for cane-juice was reduced by Rs 2 per hundred kuteha maunds. If the value of cane-juice supplied by the cultivators was insufficient to cover the advance, a balance was struck and passed on to the next year, with 2 annas (12 paise) in the rupee added to the principal amount of the loan. The cultivators were also bound to make over the juice to the same producers of sugar and received sums of Rs 3 or Rs 4 less for every hundred maunds of sugar-cane supplied than other cultivators. A bad season put the cultivator in pecuniary difficulties from which they took years to extricate themselves. Those cultivators who produced *gur* (jaggery) from sugar-cane were better off and for them sugar-cane was really a cash-crop.

Interest on cash loans, where the principal was small and the period short, was charged at rates ranging from half an anna to one anna (3 paise to 6 paise) per rupee per month. Sums of Rs 40 or Rs 50 were lent to substantial tenants at 2 or 3 per cent monthly; sums of over Rs 100 could be obtained by small zamindars on registered bonds at 1.50 or 2 per cent monthly, while the rate paid by talukdars and others on large sums varied from 10 annas to a rupee (60 paise to 100 paise) per month. These loans were advanced on the security of landed property. Besides, loans were also advanced on the *ugahi* system. Under the system, as prevalent in the *pattidari* parganas, the money-lender provided the tenant with money to pay his rent on the condition that he would receive 2.50 or 3 kuteha seers of grain for each rupee. If the money was not paid within the agreed period, interest in cash was also charged. The *ugahi* system is in vogue even today. A sum of Rs 10 if advanced has to be repaid in 12 months, at the rate of a rupee a month.

The economic depression of the thirties led to an all round slump in prices, wages and real incomes caused considerable suffering in the rural areas. Prices of agricultural products decreased substantially, and the agriculturists found it difficult to pay even the interest on loans. The producers of *khandsari* sugar, with the steep slump in the price of sugar, curtailed production and the sugar-cane growers found the demand for

sugar-cane sharply reduced. Even the producers of *gur* could not sell their product and the income of the agriculturists, was so reduced that the majority of them could not make the two ends meet.

With the passage of time and the change of circumstances the prices of agricultural commodity began to pick up and high prices began to rule during the period of the Second World War, giving good monetary returns to the agriculturists but the receipts were substantially set off by the high prices which had to be paid by them for items like clothes, live-stock and implements. The prices of agricultural products had continued to rise increasing the purchasing capacity of the agriculturists and to some extent raising their standard of living.

Considerable increases in population, which grew at the rate of 18.90 per cent in the decade 1951-61, and 18.18 per cent in the decade 1961-71, have been registered in the recent years. The expansion of population and the adoption of a higher standard of living have tended to create financial difficulties for the agriculturists. Landless labourers and cultivators with small holdings are generally in debt. About 70 per cent of the cultivators have holdings smaller than 5 acres (2.02 ha.).

A large number of persons in the rural areas are unemployed or underemployed and some people are forced to seek loans, which the money-lender advances on his own terms. According to an estimate about 20 per cent of the rural population was in debts in 1974 and the amount of debt per family was Rs 150 on the average.

**Urban Indebtedness**—Many factory and office workers residing in the urban centres of Kheri, Gola Gokarnath, Lakhimpur and Muzamdi are indebted due to the phenomenal rise in prices since the beginning of the seventies. While the salaries of the working classes have increased they do not countervail the high cost of living. A worker with a family of five persons or more finds it difficult to make the two ends meet. There has been an unprecedented rise not only in the prices of food-grains, but also in the rents of houses, tuition fees for boys and girls and of all consumer goods.

**Debt Relief Legislation**—Debt relief legislation enacted after the depression of 1928-32 falls into two categories; the first primarily providing protection to the person of the debtor and his property, and the other seeking to scale down the debts. As these Acts provided for an exemption, from attachment and sale in execution of a decree for debt, of land which was needed for the maintenance of an agriculturist and his family, they in practice, led in many cases to a reduction of the debts of agriculturists, sometimes of considerable sums. The United Provinces Agriculturists' Relief Act, 1934, brought some measure of relief to the agriculturists, as it provided inter alia for payment of debts in instalments at a low rate of interest on secured and unsecured debts. The Temporary Postponement of Execution of Decrees Act, 1937, provided that proceedings for the execution of decrees against tenants and those proprietors whose land revenue did not exceed Rs 1,000 a year should be unconditionally stayed.

The United Provinces Debt Redemption Act, 1940, provided for the accounting of interest at low rates and protecting the property of the debtors from large-scale liquidation. However these measures were availed of only by the educated or the big borrowers.

The U.P. Government decided to introduce further reforms in 1975 and the U.P. Regulation of Money-lending Act, 1976, was enacted. It provides relief to small farmers, agricultural labourers, village artisans and other weaker sections of society. The Act forbids the money-lenders from molesting a debtor on pay days near their places of work. The money-lenders are also required to furnish periodically account slips to the debtors, which shall be open to inspection by the registrar of money-lending. The registrar controls all money-lending operations in Uttar Pradesh. Each money-lender is being issued a licence and nobody shall be allowed to transact the business of money-lending without taking out a licence. Another important feature of the Act is that loans of Rs 1,000 or above shall be advanced through cheques. The government has been given the power to fix rates of interest on loans and the money-lender must issue receipts for every payment made to him.

Commercial loans of over Rs 5,000 which have been advanced by banks, the Life Insurance Corporation of India, co-operative societies, the government and from the provident fund are excluded from the operation of the Act.

### **Role of Private Money-lenders and Financiers**

In the urban areas of the district, credit is provided by local traders and money-lenders from Lucknow, Sitapur and Moradabad. Well-to-do Punjabis have also taken to this business. The rate of interest varies from 2 per cent per month to 87.50 per cent per annum.

In the rural areas, different kinds of credit agencies function : one's own relations, professional money-lenders, co-operative and traders. About 70 per cent of the rural families borrow from their relations or professional money-lenders, the rate of interest varying from 10 to 25 per cent per annum. A majority of loans is given against personal security and a small percentage against a guarantee by a third party.

### **Government Loans**

It had been the practice of all previous governments in India to extend monetary help to agriculturists in times of distress, flood, famine and other calamities. The British continued the practice and upon the recommendations of the Famine Commission of 1880, the Land Improvement Loans Act, 1883, (Act XII of 1883), and the Agriculturists' Loans Act, 1884 (Act XIX of 1884), were passed. Both these Acts empowered the provincial governments to frame rules governing the sanctioning and disbursement of loans to agriculturists. The 'grow more food campaign' had been financed by the State

Government since 1943 and the policy of increasing agricultural production and helping the agriculturists in distress by suitable provision of funds continues to be consistently followed by it. However long-term loans are provided by the U.P. State Co-operative Land Development Bank, Ltd.

The Loans advanced by the government are generally given against the security of immovable property and they have to be repaid within 2 years, in instalments. The amount of loans distributed in the 5 years, 1970-71, 1971-72, 1972-73, 1973-74 and 1974-75 are given below. The rates of interest varied from 5.50 to 8.50 per cent per annum :

Purpose	1970-71 (in Rs)	1971-72 (in Rs)	1972-73 (in Rs)	1973-74 (in Rs)	1974-75 (in Rs)
To combat distress	8,87,580	52,48,000	11,95,000	1,07,000	2,92,000
For jute development	50,000	60,000	—	—	—
For buying seed, fodder, live-stock, implements, etc.	—	6,70,000	7,00,000	—	—
For repair and construction of houses	—	8,12,000	—	42,000	—

### Co-operative Credit Societies and Banks

The co-operative movement was introduced in the district in 1904, but it gathered noticeable moment after 1947.

In the First Five-year Plan period the co-operative societies provided loans to their members, primarily for increasing agricultural production. In the Second Five-year Plan, with the increase in the membership of the primary societies, funds were also made available for buying seeds, fertilisers, insecticides and consumer goods from the marketing societies. With the increase in the functions of the primary societies, they have been reorganised since 1960, and the smaller ones were combined to form bigger multipurpose societies. The total number of societies, therefore registered a decrease since 1960. The following statement gives the progress of the co-operative movement in the district since 1950 :

	1950-51	1960-61	1969-70	1978-74
No. of primary co-operative societies	545	738	488	156
Membership of the primary co-operative societies (No.)	19,430	58,698	87,704	1,25,146
Share capital of primary co-operative societies (in Rs)	2,49,776	18,22,655	32,36,816	64,87,800
Loans advanced by primary co-operative societies (in Rs)	5,26,891	38,30,630	1,15,04,219	1,28,02,009

**Other Co-operatives**—During the Second World War (1939-45) the prices of consumer goods of daily use increased considerably and some consumers' co-operatives were established.

The District Co-operative Federation Ltd, Lakhimpur, was established in 1948, with a view to link the various local marketing institutions, with the Uttar Pradesh Co-operative Federation, Lucknow, and to provide consumer goods at reasonable prices. A sum of Rs 94,988 was invested in the institution in 1974. The following statement gives its performance in 1960 and in 1974 :

Name of goods sold	Value of goods sold (in Rs)	
	1960	1974
Galvanised cement sheets	1,46,735	8,928
Salt	85,618	8,928
Saris	9,107	—
Rationed goods/food-grains and sugar	56,888	15,195
Agricultural implements	1,485	—
Cloth	Wholesale	— 16,58,465
	Retail	— 1,41,814
Seeds	—	2,47,718
Fertilisers	—	11,45,386
Pesticides	—	72,687
Profit	18,814	64,862

**Marketing Societies**—There are six major co-operative marketing societies in the district, located at Lakhimpur, Gola Gokarannath, Nighasan, Maigalganj, Palia, and Belrayan. These societies provide implements, seeds, fertilisers and also consumer goods to the agriculturists. They also provide a ready market for the agricultural produce of the farmers, who are assured of fair cash payments. Thus the farmer is saved from the tricks of the traders and money-lenders, who are always eager to buy his produce, but with maximum benefit to themselves.

The following statement shows the details of the sales of various commodities and goods undertaken by the co-operative marketing societies in 1974 :

	Goods (value in Rs) sold in 1974			Profit (in Rs)
	Agricultural produce of farmers*	Agriculture requisites	Consumer goods	
Lakhimpur Co-operative Marketing Society, Ltd	10,65,705	1,15,672	11,74,684	6,085
Gola Co-operative Marketing Society, Ltd	9,69,470	3,28,383	6,05,194	43,576
Nighasan Co-operative Marketing Society, Ltd	5,16,183	3,36,160	84,338	23,546
Maigalpur Co-operative Marketing Society, Ltd	Nil	30,119	70,557	8,236
Palia Co-operative Marketing Society, Ltd	4,85,981	4,55,254	3,16,645	22,907
Belrayan Co-operative Marketing Society, Ltd	Newly organised in 1974			

\*Sale arranged on commission, pledge and outright basis

There are also many co-operative societies, each of which caters to its own group interests. The following statement enumerates some of the societies, and their membership :

Societies	Number	Membership in 1970
1	2	■
Processing society	1	819
Irrigation Societies	13	132
Jute marketing society	1	569
Fishery societies	5	
Salary-earners' societies	16	949

**Co-operative Banks**—The District Co-operative Bank, Ltd, Lakhimpur, was established on December 22, 1923. It has 12 branches in the district, which are located at Gola Gokarannath, Nighasan, Palia, Khamaria, Muhandi, Mitauli, Baragaon, Oel, Sundarwal, Bajuwa, Bhejan and Sisaiya.

The bank finances the primary co-operative societies, which in their turn, advance loans to the agriculturists for agricultural operations.

The total working capital of the bank was Rs 1,80,99,000 on June 30, 1970, the paid up share capital, reserved fund, and outstanding borrowed money amounted to Rs 24,51,000, Rs 10,73,000, and Rs 3,03,000 respectively.

The bank has been making steady progress and its profit increased from Rs 2,11,000 in 1970 to Rs 4,76,000 in 1974. The deposits of the bank increased from Rs 1,45,76,000 in 1970 to Rs 3,44,15,000 in 1974. The rate of interest on deposits varies from 3 to 10.50 per cent per annum.

The bank advanced the amounts of Rs 67,83,000 in 1970 and Rs 1,54,57,000 in 1974. The rate of interest on advances varies from 10.25 to 12 per cent per annum. The outstanding advances of the bank in 1970 amounted to Rs 1,11,00,000.

The Uttar Pradesh State Co-operative Land Development Bank, Ltd, established a branch at Lakhimpur in 1960. There are three branches of the bank in the district, located at Lakhimpur, Gola Gokarannath and Nighasan.

The bank provides long term loans to the agriculturists for investment in agricultural operations. At present funds are being made available for minor irrigation schemes. The working capital of the bank in 1970 was Rs 1,38,39,000, the deposits amounted to Rs 2,64,000, paid up share capital to Rs 8,71,000 and borrowings outstanding to Rs 1,27,04,000. The bank advanced an amount of Rs 28,78,000 as loan in the same year. The outstanding advances amounted to Rs 1,29,41,000 on June 30, 1970.

The branch of the bank at Lakhimpur advanced Rs 27,89,700 to 651 agriculturists as loans at an interest of 8 per cent per annum in 1973-74, when the bank earned Rs 82,302 as profit.

### Commercial Banks

There were four commercial banks in the district in 1974, which operate through 12 branches. The following statement gives the location of each branch of commercial banks in the district :

Commercial Banks	Location of branches
State Bank of India	Bhira, Mailani, Palia Kalan, Gola Gokarannath, Lakhimpur, Muhamdi
Allahabad Bank	Nighasan, Palia Kalan, Sam-purnanagar, Lakhimpur
Central Bank of India	Tikuniyan
Punjab National Bank	Lakhimpur

Commercial banking has been slowly growing since 1967. The deposits and advances have been growing but the rate of growth of deposits has been greater than that of advances. The following statement gives the deposits and advances in some selected years :

Year	Deposits (in Rs)	Advances (in Rs)
1967	2,08,17,000	1,38,84,000
1968	2,84,41,000	2,26,41,000
1969	2,92,88,000	2,48,94,000

The rate of increase in deposits, from 1967 to 1968 had been 15.37 per cent, and from 1968 to 1969 24.71 per cent. The rate of increase in advances, from 1967 to 1968 had been 69.16 per cent, and from 1968 to 1969 only 9.95 per cent. However the credit deposit ratio was very high in the district, which is rather an exception in the State of Uttar Pradesh. It was 66, 96 and 85 per cent in 1967, 1968 and 1969 respectively. With the opening of more branches of commercial banks, deposits and advances in the district have considerably increased. There were only 6 branches in 1969, while 12 branches are functioning in the district in 1975.

The estimated population per office of the commercial banks in the district has been declining since 1969 with the opening of new branches. However, the district is underbanked as compared to population average per office in Uttar Pradesh and India. The relevant data are given below :

Year	Population per office of the commercial banks		
	Kheri	Uttar Pradesh	India
1967	8,63,500	1,38,000	75,000
1968	3,71,250	1,27,000	70,000
1969	2,52,867	1,19,000	65,000
1970	1,71,889	91,000	52,000
1971	1,81,750	77,000	46,000

The bulk of the finance in the district economy comes either from self-financing or from borrowed funds made available by the non-institutional sources. It is not an easy task to evaluate the role of finance in the unorganised sector in the absence of readily available data.

Industrialists, government servants and big traders depend on the institutional finance which is organised. The commercial banks, the co-operative societies, the co-operative banks and the government constitute the organised sources of finance. The savings of the rural population of the district are still largely untapped. However, the commercial banks have opened branches in the rural areas of Tikuniyan, Palia Kalan, Nighasan, Bhira and Mailani. Efforts are being made to collect the savings of the agriculturists and to provide money to them for agricultural operations. The rate of interest on deposits vary from 4 to 8 per cent per annum, and on advances from 8 to 11 per cent per annum.

### National Savings Organisation.

The post-office savings bank scheme has been in operation in the district since the last decade of the nineteenth century. This and the other subsequent small savings schemes have been formulated to tap the savings of those who generally do not subscribe to government loans and to inculcate the habit of thrift in people in order to make funds available to government for investment in development schemes. The Chinese aggression in 1962 led to the introduction of the defence deposit and the national defence certificates schemes in order to raise funds for the defence of the country.

The scheme of premium prize bonds was introduced in the district on January 1, 1963. Bonds were available at the treasuries and post-offices up to December 31, 1964, in the denomination of Rs 5 and Rs 100. They were encashable 5 years after the date of sale with premium of 10 per cent, each holder being eligible to participate in the draws for prizes.

### Life Insurance

Life insurance business was nationalised in September, 1956, with the setting up of the Life Insurance Corporation of India, of which a branch office was opened at Lakhimpur in 1962. The office is managed by two Class I officers and 31 others. The progress of life insurance business in the district during the four years 1970-71 to 1973-74 is given below :

Year	Total (in Rs)
1970-71	1,30,07,500
1971-72	1,69,43,250
1972-73	1,71,25,500
1973-74	1,93,96,000

Life insurance is confined to urban centres and only 5,753 persons were insured by the end of 1974. The per capita life insurance was valued at Rs 18 only when 0.1 per cent of the total population of the district was covered.

### Currency and Coinage

As far back as the sixth century B.C. gold dust or ingots of gold and silver served as currency. Coins, pieces of metal of regular shape, whose

weight and fineness was guaranteed by a recognised authority, were in vogue. The coins were issued by merchants, guilds and corporations besides the government of the day. They were known as punch-marked coins, because one or more figures were marked as symbols of the issuing authority. However they bore no names and no legends.

The weight of the earliest coins was based on the system laid down in Manu-Samhita<sup>1</sup>. Generally coins of single metal, copper or silver were in circulation. The silver *purana* or *dhurana* of 32 *ratis*, and their various multiples and subdivisions have been discovered all over India.

In the mediaeval period, there were mainly three divisions of the currency system. A gold *mohar* was equivalent to 10 silver rupees, and a rupee comprised 40 copper dams.

The British issued their own rupees, a rupee was made up of 16 annas, and an anna was subdivided into 12 pies or 4 paisas.

The Reserve Bank of India, was established at Bombay in 1935, as a share-holders' bank. It was taken over by the Government of India in 1949. It acts as a currency note issuing authority, banker's bank, and banker to government.

The decimal system of coinage was introduced on October, 1, 1958. The rupee has been divided into 100 paise. There are coins of 1 paise, 2 paise, 3 paise, 5 paise, 10 paise, 20 paise, 25 paise, and 50 paise in circulation. However the old coins of 8 annas (50 paise) are still in vogue in the district.

The currency consists of one rupee notes and coins issued by the Government of India and bank notes issued by the Reserve Bank of India. However the distribution of one rupee notes and coins is undertaken by the Reserve Bank of India as the agent of the Central Government. In October, 1969, a restricted number of ten rupees Mahatma Ghandhi centenary silver coins were issued.

The Reserve Bank of India has issued notes of the denominations of rupee two, five, ten, twenty, fifty, and one hundred. Currency and coinage are made available to the district through branches of the State Bank of India, which are located at Lakhimpur, Gola Gekarannath, Muhamdi, Palia Kalan, Mailani and Bhira.

The branches are fed by the branch of the Reserve Bank of India at Kanpur. Each bank is provided with a currency chest.

#### TRADE AND COMMERCE

The rivers Chauka and Kauriyala were the main trade routes in the district before the introduction of the railways in 1883. In the beginning of the present century, the river-borne trade was very small, and confined to the transport of food-grains down the river Kauriyala to

Bahramghat to which place logs were also floated down the Chauka, Charcoal and sal beams were also sent down the Gomati to Lucknow. However the railway has now become the chief means of communication. The pace of trade was accelerated after the development of roads and in 1905, the Sitapur-Shahjahanpur road was the main outlet for grains from the tract between the Gomati and the Kathna, going generally to Sitapur, and from the tract west of the Gomati to Shahjahanpur.

Till the twenties of this century the goods were carried on bullock-carts or carriages drawn by ponies. The more important exports of the district were rice, wheat, maize, oil-seeds, tobacco, *gur* (jaggery), molasses, timber, charcoal, forest produce, hides, horns and cattle. The principal imports were cloth, refined sugar, salt, kerosene oil, copper and iron goods from Lucknow and Kanpur, brass goods from Fatehgarh and elsewhere and carts and wheels from Pilibhit. These commodities, and tobacco, were the main re-exports to Nepal, while the imports from Nepal were cattle, timber, forest produce, ghee, hides, catechu and spices. Large areas under forests in the district have been cleared since the introduction of the railways. Owing to the breaking-up of the grazing land, there has been a marked decline in cattle-breeding, though it is still an important source of income. There was also a large trade in timber and charcoal, which were exported to Sitapur, Lucknow, Kanpur, Bareilly and Shahjahanpur.

The economic depression which prevailed in the period 1929-33 resulted in a marked slump in prices, incomes and trade. The investments in industry and trade went down sharply and returns from them declined. The economy of the district showed signs of revival after 1935, the prices rose and the trend has continued since then.

With the development of roads and other means of communication since 1950, the volume of trade increased. Greater quantities of food-grains, oil-seeds, timber, catechu could be transported by trucks to the adjoining districts.

According to the 1961 census, 6,380 persons were engaged in trade and commerce in the district, which was only 1.46 per cent of the total number of workers in the district. The largest number of the workers engaged in trade and commerce, namely 2,865, belonged to tahsil Nighasan followed by tahsils Lakhimpur and Muhamdi, with 2,100 and 1,778 workers respectively.

In 1971, the total number of persons employed in trade and commerce in the district was 12,282 which formed 2.50 per cent of all the workers in the district.

### **Export and Import**

**Export**—The main commodities of export from the district are rice, jute, sugar and forest products. They are exported to Shahjahanpur, Sitapur, Bareilly, Lucknow and Kanpur. Timber, mainly sal and *shisham*, fuel, catechu and fish are exported from the forests. The

following statement gives the value of exports of forest products from the district in 1973-74 :

Item	Value (in rupees)
<b>Timber and fuel</b>	<b>2,16,48,488</b>
Catechu	1,00,000
Fish	75,860
Honey	9,400
Bones	5,425
<b>Forest grass and shrubs</b>	<b>8,385</b>

Rice, jute and sugar are the other items of export. The following statement gives the approximate quantities of these commodities exported in 1973-74 :

Item	Export (in quintals)
Sugar	2,00,000
Rice	1,00,000
Jute	20,000

**Import**—General merchandise, medicines, cloth, agricultural implements, machines and tools and some sugar-cane are the main items of import of the district. A major portion of these goods are imported from Bareilly, Lucknow and Kanpur. Sugar-cane is imported from Pilibhit for the sugar-mill at Gola Gokarannath.

#### Trade Centres

Lakhimpur Galla Mandi is the main market connected by roads with Kheri, Oel, Pharadahan, Rajaganj, Gola Gokarannath, Muhamdi, Nighasan, Singahi, Isanagar and Dhaurahra. The market is held daily. Paddy, wheat and maize worth a sum of Rs 1,00,00,000, jute valued at an amount of Rs 50,00,000 and oil-seeds and gur together worth a sum of Rs 50,00,000 are sold in the market annually.

The other wholesale markets located near Lakhimpur are at Kheri, Oel and Mehewaganj. In each of the *mandis* agricultural products worth Rs 2,000 to Rs 10,000 are sold on each market day, which recurs twice a week. Lakhimpur town has another wholesale market for non-agricultural goods dealt in by about 50 traders.

The other wholesale markets are located at Sampurnanagar, Maigalganj, Khamaria, Paindia, Gulariya, Dulhi, Phool Behar, Raniganj,

Saidapur, Pihani, Jang Bahadurganj, Ramia Behar, Aurangabad, Tinkuniyan and Gola Gokaran Nath.

The following table gives information about some of the wholesale markets functioning in the district :

Location	Commodities	Operation of wholesale markets in 1971	
		Total arrivals (in quintals)	Value of arrivals in Rs (in crores)
Maigalganj	Pulses and Oil-seeds	28,396	0.26
Gola Gokaran Nath	Ditto	55,109	0.49
Palia Kalan	Ditto	1,41,492	1.26
Tikuniyan	Ditto	1,31,857	1.18

Goods are stored in 70 warehouses and a large number of store-houses in the district.

The following statement gives an idea of warehousing facilities available in the district :

Godowns	Nighasan Tahsil		Lakhimpur Tahsil		Muhamdi Tahsil		District total	
	Number	Capacity in quintals	Number	Capacity in quintals	Number	Capacity in quintals	Number	Capacity in quintals
Government godown (Agriculture department )	11	11,000	8	8,000	8	8,000	27	27,000
Co-operative godowns	14	14,000	11	10,000	7	7,000	32	31,000
Food Corporation of India godown	1	1,00,000	—	—	—	—	1	1,00,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>1,25,000</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>18,000</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>15,000</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>1,58,000</b>

There are 10 private warehouses with a total capacity of 20,000 quintals. About 1,490 retail traders buy goods from the wholesale traders in the markets and sell them to consumers. Each market usually commences early in the morning and closes late in the afternoon so that the villagers may return to their homes by nightfall.

The requirements of the people, in the matter of consumer goods, are generally supplied by the small local bazars also known as *hats*. The markets are scattered all over the district, at which dealers of the neighbouring villages exhibit their wares. They are held twice a week.

The following statement gives numbers of villages, and the marketing centres (*hats*) in each taluk of the district :

Tahsil	No. of villages	No. of village markets
Muhamdi	661	14
Lakhimpur	690	23
Nighasan	420	12
Total	1,771	49

### Fairs

The fairs held in the district are mostly of religious importance, except the one at Gola Gokarannath which place is sacred to the Hindus. More than 2,00,000 persons on the average congregate here twice annually in Phalgun (February and March) and Chaitra (April and May) for fifteen days on each occasion. Pilgrims and traders come here from long distances, travelling by rail and road. Many bring sacred water of river Ganga to pour over the *lingum* of Mahadeo located in the famous temple at Gola Gokarannath. Their offerings are collected by the priest, but the municipal board, Gola Gokarannath, levies a cess on each pilgrim on the occasion of the fair, which is used to defray the expenses of the management of the fair.

Ready-made garments, cloth, agricultural implements, live-stock, food-grains, sweetmeats and plastic goods are sold in the fair. Traders from Punjab, Bareilly, Lucknow, and Sitapur visit the fair.

### Weights and Measures

The weights and measures prevalent in the past, varied from pargana to pargana and often from village to village. The most popular measure of weight was the *panseri* which was both kutcha and pukka. The former comprised five local or kutcha seers, while the latter varied in its weight. In Lakhimpur and Nighasan tahsils it was equivalent to 2.25 standard seers. But in Muhamdi it varied from 10 kutcha seers in the Muhamdi and Atwa Piparia parganas, to 15 such seers in the other parts of the tahsil. The local seers varied greatly and consequently the *panseri* which was derived theoretically from so many *gandas*, each of which was made up of four units the so called *maddushahi* piece of 270 grains each, or according to the mode of reckoning in Bahraich, of six units, which in this case was the current rupee of 180 grains a piece. The *ganda* was not, however, known in this district, although many of the prevailing *panseris* were derived from this source. Such were the *panseris* each of 32,400 grains or 30 *gandas* found in the parganas of Kheri, of 37,800 grains or 38 *gandas* in Palia and in some part of Nighasan about Majgnin, of 35,100 grains or 30½ *gandas* in Bhur, Dhaurahra, part of Srinagar and the Semra tract of Nighasan; and that of 34,200 grains or 31½ *gandas* which is used in Firozabad and part of Srinagar. There were other peculiar kinds of *panseris* as they were not derived from *ganda* at all, but from the *taka* or double piece unit that was then

recognised in Rohilkhand. The *taka* was about half of *ganda*, but actually the weight was 480 grains. The most popular measure in the district was the kutcha *panseri* of 36,000 grains, or 75 *takas*, giving a kutcha seer of 40 tolas or exactly half the standard weight. It was generally used in Kasta, Haidarabad, Magdapur, and Palia, part of Srinagar, Nighasan and Khairnagarh. In Aurangabad the *panseri* was of 33,300 grains or about 70 *takas*: in Muhamdi, it was larger, being 40,800 grains or 85 *takas* and in Atwa Piparia the local standard was even higher, as the *panseri* was made up of 105 *takas*, the kutcha seer (*ser*) being of 56 tolas. For weighing sugar and tobacco a pakka seer was generally used. This *ser* weighed 104 tolas, as in Shahjahanpur.

Land measures were equally variable. The standard bigha of 3,025 square yards was generally recognised, but every pargana had its own local or kutcha bigha. The unit was *kasi* or double pace, and this as the saying was, depended on the length of the *patwari's* foot. Two *kasis* made a *gatha* and ten *gathas* are the side of a kutcha bigha.

The metric system of weights and measures was introduced in the district with effect from October 1, 1960.

For the proper enforcement of the new system, the U.P. Government has appointed a senior inspector who works under the district supply officer at Lakhimpur. Every trader has to submit his weights and measures for inspection and every such unit is stamped after being found accurate; camps are held in all the *mandis*, and the purchasers are able to buy goods measured with accurate weights and measures. In December, every year a publicity week is held in the markets of the district where the new weights and measures are publicised through films, placards, hoardings and pamphlets. Traders are advised to seek the co-operation and guidance of the officials of the department of weights and measures. However a large number of traders still use old weights and measures which are inaccurate and do not conform to the metric system.

## CHAPTER VII

### COMMUNICATIONS

#### TRADE ROUTES AND HIGHWAYS

##### Old Time Trade Routes and Roads

In ancient times Gola Gokarannath was an important centre of trade and pilgrimage. Roads connected it with Shahjahanpur, Hardoi, Sitapur, Bahraich and Nepal. It was also a centre of Buddhist worship. Pilgrims and traders came here from long distances. However rivers had to be crossed by ferries and in the rainy season most of the roads were full of mud and water and difficult to negotiate. The chief outlets of trade of the district in those days and even in the medieval period were the Chauka, the Kauriyala and the Gomati rivers. Big boats carrying goods and passengers on these rivers touched various places in districts Pilibhit, Bahraich, Sitapur, Shahjahanpur, and beyond.

Prior to the annexation of Avadh by the British there were one or two what were then recognised as roads in the district but their condition was very poor. In the days of the nawabs of Avadh, Muhamdi was a place of some importance, and was connected by road with Shahabad in Hardoi, Gola Gokarannath and possibly with Shahjahanpur and Khairabad in Sitapur. From Gola Gokarannath a road ran south-east to Oel and Laharpur, but the existence of no other roads can be traced.

After the revolt of 1857, a network of roads was opened up in every direction. The road from Sitapur to Shahjahanpur and passing through this district and the one from Lakhimpur to Muhamdi and Shahjahanpur were maintained out of the road and ferry fund, while others were local roads, for which a grant-in-aid was given by the government. In 1861 the local roads comprised the roads from Lakhimpur to Sitapur, Mullanpur, Khairigarh to Aliganj and Mailani to Mitauli and Maigalganj, and from Aliganj to Bhira. Many more were added soon after, but even at the turn of the century the majority of the roads were poor, many of them being impassable during several months of the year, while the total length of the metalled roads in the district was less than in any part of Avadh, with the single exception of district Bahraich. The many rivers flowing through the district presented a great obstacle in the construction of roads, especially the river Chauka. The roads approaching the ferries passed over expanses of drifting sand skirting the river, and the passage was only accomplished by carts with great difficulty, generally occupying an entire day.

The following statement gives the length of the various metalled roads in the district in 1904 :

Road	Length (in km.)
Lucknow—Sitapur—Shahjahanpur via Kheri	27.2
Lakhimpur—Shahjahanpur	13.0
Lakhimpur Municipal roads	11.2
Lakhimpur—Singali	8.6
Lakhimpur—Sitapur	2.4
Lakhimpur—Aliganj	2.0
Total	64.4

In addition, there were 1,003.8 km. of unmetalled roads in the district.

There was very little development of roads in the first half of the twentieth century. However, planned development of the means of communication and the construction of new roads was undertaken after 1947, by the public works department. In 1947, the total length of the metalled roads in the district was 105 miles (168.0 km.), of which portions of the Shahjahanpur—Sitapur road (25.8 km.) and the Sitapur—Lakhimpur (12.8 km.) were under the public works department. The length of metalled roads increased to 278 miles (444.8 km.) in 1963 and to 684.90 km. in 1974.

The following statement gives the length of roads of the district per 100 square kilometres of area :

Year	Length of metalled roads per 100 square kilometres (in km.)
1947	2.1
1963	5.7
1974	8.2

## Highways

The roads of the district are now classified as national highways, State highways, local roads and the roads in the jurisdiction of forest department and local bodies. The State public works department maintains the national highways on behalf of the Central Government and it also maintains the State highways and major local roads. The forest department and the local bodies maintain the other roads lying within their jurisdictions.

The following statement gives the lengths of the highways in the district in the year 1974 :

Highways	Length in district (in km.)
Lucknow— Bareilly	28.91
Bareilly— Amingaon	106.40
Belrayan— Panwari	64.00
Palia— Lucknow	91.25

The public works department also maintains major local roads. The following statement gives the lengths of these roads in the district in km.

Major Local Roads	Length in District (in km.)
Lakhimpur—Maigalganj	53.50
Gola Gokarannath— Shahjahanpur	50.00
Palia—Tikunia—Khajuria	36.80
Palia—Nighasan	36.75
Dudhwa—Gauri Phanta	24.80
Oel-Bhejam Bhadwa	24.40
Palia—Dudhwa—Chandan Chauki	24.00
Nighasan— Ramian Behar	19.80
Pasgawan—Muhamdi	14.24
Kheri—Lagcha	12.55
Gharthania—Kakarha	11.60
Gola Gokarannath— Sikandrabad	11.20
Gola Gokarannath—Sansarpur	8.80
Sisaiya—Isanagar	7.60
Muhamdi—Barakhar—Aurangabad	7.00
Motipur—Tikunia—Kauriyalaghpat	8.70
Mamri—Pikaria	7.97
Gola Gokarannath—Aliganj	7.30
Sumerpur feeder	7.04
Isanagar—Hasanpur— Katauli	7.00
Belahri—Baibaha	6.70

Other Local Roads	Length in district (in km.)
Gola Gokarannath—Muhndi	6.30
Keshwarpur—Siswakala	5.64
Newapur feeder	5.00
Aira—Isanagar	4.80
Kakra railway station link	4.60
Gola—Kukra	4.60
Kukra—Nayagaon	4.30
Gola sugar factory link	4.30
Lakhimpur feeder (west)	3.80
Sarayan—Katauli link	3.20
Aira sugar factory—Ibrahimpur	3.20
Lakhimpur—Sundarwal	3.20
Lakhimpur feeder (East)	2.90
Gola Gokarannath sugar mill diversion	2.90
Rajaganj—Bijhauri	2.90
Kaimara—Phardhan	2.81
Aira sugar factory—Parelia	2.60
Khajuria—Bazar Ghat	2.50
Lakhimpur—Devkali	1.60
Dhanaura—Khajuria—Bilauri	1.40
Khajuria—Hajara	1.40
Sampurnanagar—Museina Gaudi	1.30
Kheri—Arni Khana	1.30
Aira sugar factory link	1.20



The Zila Parishad, Lakhimpur Kheri, maintains 29 roads in the district. The total length of roads, which connect various villages is 385.50 km. The following statement gives the length of each of the major roads maintained by the Zila Parishad in the year 1974 :

Road	Length (in km.)
Lakhimpur—Khairigarh	35.00
Gola Gokarannath—Aliganj	24.00
Lakhimpur—Muhamdi	22.00
Jahanikhera—Barwar	10.40

The municipal board, Lakhimpur maintained 105 km. of roads within its limits.

In the forest tracts many service roads have been constructed by the department. They are primarily intended to facilitate the export of forest produce, but they also constitute an important addition to the means of communication in the forests, where roads are few and far between. However, the communications are more difficult in the trans-Sarda range on account of the numerous rivers and streams there.

There are 1,215 km. of roads in the forest ranges of which 767 km. are in the northern region.

#### MODES OF CONVEYANCE

The means of conveyance used in the past were elephants, horses, ponies, donkeys, mules, camels and carriages and carts drawn by some of these animals or bullocks, or bull buffaloes, litters and palanquins. Bullocks and bullock-carts were the main conveyances of the agriculturists. The light carts are known as *adha* or *rath* as in district Hardoi. In these days these carts were generally drawn by superior breeds of bullocks.

With the advent of the bicycles, cycle-rickshaws and motor vehicles, the use of horses, ponies and camels as means of conveyance has declined. Ekkas and tongas which were to be found in large numbers in the towns have more or less disappeared from the roads, only a few are to be found in the urban areas. The bicycle came into general use as a means of transport early in the twenties of this century, and this inexpensive conveyance is in use equally in the urban and rural areas. However, bullock-carts and carts pulled by bull buffaloes are even today the main conveyance in the villages of the district.

The cycle-rickshaw is a popular means of conveyance in the urban areas. Licensees have to be obtained for the rickshaw and its driver for plying it within the jurisdiction of a local body. Generally the drivers do not possess the rickshaws. They pay about Rs 2.00 to Rs 2.50 per day to the owner as hire charges for the vehicle. A cycle-rickshaw driver is examined medically before he gets the licence. In 1973-74, the number of cycle-rickshaws registered with the municipal board, Lakhimpur, was 535 which increased to 626 in 1974-75. Licensees have been issued to 645 cycle-rickshaw drivers in the town in 1974-75. About eight per cent of the drivers possess their rickshaws. The rest ply on hire.

The following statement shows various conveyances registered with the municipal board, Lakhimpur in 1974-75 :

Conveyance	No. registered
Cycles	700
Cycle-rickshaws	636
Tongas	20
Ekkas	Nil

Only 91 cycle-rickshaws were registered with the municipal board, Gola Gokarannath, in 1974-75.

### **Motor Traffic**

Motor trucks and buses started operating in the district about the middle of the twenties of this century. However, there were only a few motor vehicles in the district before 1947. In the following years, as the prices of buses and trucks declined due to the end of the Second World War (1939-1946) and military vehicles were disposed of in large numbers, motor vehicles began to be used on the roads in larger numbers. In 1974, as many as 154 trucks and 89 private passenger buses operated in the district. These vehicles belong to persons who reside in the district. In addition a large number of trucks belonging to residents of Lucknow, Kanpur and Sitapur and registered in those towns also operate in the district. Each truck can carry a load of about 100 quintals, and a mini-truck carries about 40 quintals of goods. There are 4 mini-trucks available at Lakhimpur.

Private buses operate on seven routes in the district. The following statement gives the number of buses operating on various routes in the district :

Route	No. of houses operating in 1975
Palia—Khajuria—Nighasan	24
Lakhimpur—Maigalganj	14
Lakhimpur—Belrayan	18
Lakhimpur—Dhaurahra	16
Lakhimpur—Hardoi	3
Lakhimpur—Bhira	6
Lakhimpur—Palia	3

A large number of taxis, 12 tempos (three wheeled motor vehicle) and a mini-bus are also available at Lakhimpur for the transport of passengers to other districts.

**The U.P. State Road Transport Corporation**—The U.P. Government Roadways started operating passenger buses from 1947. In the beginning a few buses operated on the Lakhimpur-Sitapur-Lucknow routes.

The U.P. Government Roadways was constituted into the U.P. State Road Transport Corporation in 1972. At present its buses ply on a large number of routes. Buses are available for going to the adjoining districts, Lucknow, Bareilly and Kanpur. The district headquarters is linked with all the tahsils and urban centres. About 60 buses operate daily on the roads of the district. A de-lux bus runs every day between Lucknow and Lakhimpur, leaving Lucknow in the morning and arriving at Lakhimpur at noon. It leaves Lakhimpur in the afternoon and reaches Lucknow in the evening.

## Railways

**The Northern Railway (Broad-gauge)**—The railway enters the district in the extreme south-west in tahsil Muhamdi, from Rosa junction in district Shahjahanpur and after traversing the district for only 10 km. to the east it enters district Hardoi, and after covering a small distance of about 5 km. in that district, re-enters the district where it runs for a distance of about 10 km. before entering the Sitapur district. This section of what is now the Northern Railway was constructed in the second decade of the twentieth century and was then part of the Oudh and Rohilkhand Railway. It is a branch line, which connected the Hardoi-Shahjahanpur section of the Railway with Sitapur. The East Indian Railway took over all these sections in 1925. In November, 1951 the Indian Government created amongst other Zones, the Northern Railway Zone, the part of the old East Indian Railway which passed through the district being included in the newly formed Northern Railway, with headquarters at New Delhi.

**North Eastern Railway (Metre-gauge)**—The section of the erstwhile Rohilkhand and Kumaun Railway from Lucknow to Sitapur was opened on November 15, 1886, and that from Sitapur to Lakhimpur on April 15, in the following year. On December 15, 1887, the Lakhimpur-Gola Gokarannath line was opened and on April 1, 1891, the section from Gola Gokarannath to Mailani and thence to Pilibhit was opened. Another branch line ran from Mailani to Marauncha ghat on the Sarda, and thence to Sonaripur in the forests of Khairigarh. The Mailani-Marauncha ghat section was opened on January 1, 1883 (the first railway line to be laid in the district), that from the Sarda to Sohela station on March, 10th, of the same year, and from Sohela to Sonaripur on March 18, 1894. From Dudhwa, a station between Sohela and Sonaripur, a branch line was laid and completed in 1903, connecting Dudhwa with Chandan Chauki on the banks of the river Mohan. It is chiefly employed for the export of timber and other forest produce.

In 1943 the government took over the metre-gauge railway system naming it the Oudh and Tirhut Railway. In April, 1952 the railway became the North Eastern Railway with headquarters at Gorakhpur.

From Mailani a branch line railway, (narrow-gauge) proceeds to Pawayan in Shahjahanpur. It was completed on 22nd, December 1894 and was leased out to the Rohilkhand and Kumaun Railway Company on 27th December, 1900. The North Eastern Railway operates this line also. There are 28 railway stations on the North Eastern Railway covering a distance of 230 km. in the district. The following statement gives the names of railway stations in the district :

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Main line (Lucknow—Sitapur—Lakhimpur—Pilibhit—Bareilly)

Stations:

- Oel
- Arnikhana
- Lakhimpur
- Devkali
- Pharadahan
- Rajagunj
- Bahelia Buzurg
- Gola Gokarannath

[Continued]

**Kukra  
Bhikampur  
Mailani Junction**

**Branch line (Mailani Junction—Kauriyalaghat)**

**Stations :**

Mailani Junction  
Bhira Kheri  
Palia Kalan  
Budhwa Junction  
Sonarpur  
Rehta  
Delrayan  
Tikunia  
Kauriyalaghat

**Branch line (Dudhwa Junction—Gauri Phanta)**

**Stations :**

Dudhwa Junction  
Phulwaria Phanta  
Paulaha  
Dingania  
Gauri Phanta

**Branch line (Dudhwa Junction—Chandan Chawki)**

**Stations :**

Dudhwa Junction  
Chandan Chauki

In 1968-69, as many as 6,309 railway wagons were loaded at the various stations in the district. In the next year goods worth an amount of Rs 6,64,000 were loaded for being transported by the railways to other districts.

**Waterways**—When there were neither good roads nor the railways, the rivers of the district formed the chief trade routes and the principal means of communication.

By the beginning of the twentieth century this trade in the wake of the construction of the railway came to a standstill. At present rivers only serve as a passage for villagers going from one bank to the other.

**Bridges**—There are a large number of bridges and culverts on the railway and roads in the district.

**Ferries**—There are a large number of ferries in the district, since communications are constantly interrupted by unfordable rivers, especially in the north and east of the district.

Passengers, including tourists, can reach the district by the North Eastern Railway, buses and taxis. Facilities of board and stay are available at all the urban centres. Lakhimpur, being the district headquarters and having direct rail and road links with Sitapur, Bairraich, Filibhit and Shahjahanpur, has assumed importance as a big commercial

centre. It has a number of dharnasalas, rest-houses, post-offices, police-stations, hospitals, and the district and tahsil offices. More than 50 buses and 10 trains stop here daily. Places such as Muhamdi, Nighasan, Gola Gokarannath and Kheri, and 30 villages of the district are accessible from here by metalled roads.

There are a few dharnasalas in the district which are privately managed and charge a nominal rent for providing accommodation. The visitor has to make his own arrangements for board. A list of dharnasalas is appended at Statement I (a) at the end of the chapter.

A number of inspection-houses, rest-houses and dak bungalows are maintained by different government departments. Tourists and non-officials are allowed to stay in them if accommodation is available. A list of inspection-houses, rest-houses and dak bungalows is appended at Table I (b) at the end of the chapter.

The hotels at Lakhimpur, Gola Gokarannath and Muhamdi provide accommodation and board. Besides there are a large number of restaurants which provide snacks and light drinks. However, there is considerable scope for the development of the hotel industry in the district.

#### POST AND TELEGRAPHS

**Post-offices**—The first attempt to organise a postal service in the district was made shortly after the freedom struggle of 1857, and for a few years the work of carrying and distributing the mails was entrusted to the police; offices were opened in the tahsils and the principal thanas. The system proved generally unsatisfactory, and in 1865 a new scheme was introduced for the whole of Avadh, whereby the police were relieved of these duties and the district dak started with a regular postal staff. The whole district was divided into a number of circles, with a post-office in each, the police stations being generally selected for administrative convenience, and the mails were carried by runners. There were imperial dak lines from Lakhimpur to the branch offices at Mitauli and Dhaurahra, to Shahjahanpur via Gola Gokarannath and Muhamdi, and to Sitapur by way of Kheri and Oel. District dak runners were maintained on the routes from Gola Gokarannath to Bhira and from Lakhimpur to Singahi. Further improvements were made with a view to ensure the regular delivery of letters in the villages and the system remained in force till 1876. About 30 runners operated on 52 miles (83.2 km.) of routes and 14,708 covers were delivered and 2,033 were returned undelivered in 1876-77. The postage realised amounted to Rs 854. In 1876-77, for postal purposes, Avadh was amalgamated with the North-Western Provinces and its administration was taken over by the Imperial Government (Government of India). The district dak was not, however, altogether replaced, only the more important offices were taken over by the Imperial Government. However, all the post-offices were placed under the control of the Imperial Government by 1915.

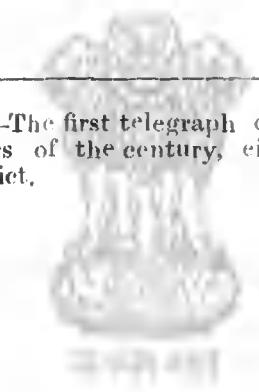
With the introduction of the railway, the dak came to be carried by trains, the runners being employed in the interior of the district.

The district is in the administrative jurisdiction of the senior superintendent of post-offices, posted at Sitapur, who works under the post-master general, Uttar Pradesh.

The development and extension of roads and consequent development of vehicular traffic have led to the opening of more and more post-offices in the district. In 1911, there were 34 post-offices, while in 1971, the figure stood at 186. The number of post-offices per 100 square km. in various tahsils in 1971, has been shown in the following table :

Tahsil	No. of post-offices per 100 square km. of area
Nighasan	2
Lakhimpur	2
Muhamdi	1

**Telegraph offices**—The first telegraph office was opened in 1905. In the last seven decades of the century, eight telegraph offices have been opened in the district.



## STATEMENT I (a)

*List of Dharmasalas and Hotels*

Reference page No. 121

Village or town/mohalla 1	Name of dharmasalas, hotels and or number 2
<b>TAHSIL LAKHIMPUR</b>	
Ghasian Mandi, Lakhimpur	Janta dharmasala
Lakhimpur, Chauni	Janta dharmasala
Main Bazar	Sardar hotel
Mainaha	Gupti Nath dharmasala
Lakhimpur, Nai Basti	Hardwari Lal dharmasala
Lakhimpur, Nai Basti	Hira Lal dharmasala
Oel	Battan Vaish dharmasala
Oel	Jagannath dharmasala
Lakhimpur, Raniganj	Battan Vaish dharmasala
Salabat Nagar ...	Dharmasala Salabat Nagar
<b>TAHSIL MUHAMDI</b>	
Gola Gokarannath	Dharmasalas (6)
Muhamdi	Dharmasalas (3)

## STATEMENT I (b)

*List of Dak Bungalows, Inspection Houses, etc.*

Reference page No. 121

Village/Town 1	Name of dak bungalow/ inspection house 2	Managing department 3
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## TAHSIL LAKHIMPUR

Adampur	Inspection house	Irrigation (canal) department
Bankeganj	Ditto	Ditto
Barkbar	Ditto	Public works department
Bhira	Rest house	Forest department
Chhanchh	Inspection house	Irrigation department
Kishunpur	Rest house	Forest department
Lakhimpur	Inspection house	Public works department
Lakhimpur	Dak bungalow	Zila parishad
Mailani	Rest house	Forest department
Oel	Inspection house	Irrigation department
Raipur	Rest house	Forest department
Sharda Nagar	Inspection house	Irrigation department

## TAHSIL MUHAMDI

Aurangabad	Inspection house	Irrigation department
Barhaiya	Ditto	Ditto
Ganeshpur	Ditto	Ditto
Gola Gokarannath	Ditto (ten)	Public works department
Gola Gokarannath	Rest house	Forest department
Gola Gokarannath	Dak bungalow	Zila parishad
Kasta	Inspection house	Irrigation (canal) department
Lalpur	Ditto	Ditto
Maigalganj	Ditto	Public works department
Mamri	Ditto	Irrigation (canal) department
Muhamdi	Ditto	Ditto
Muhamdi	Dak bungalow	Zila parishad

[Continued]

1	2	3
Parasan	Rest house	Forest department
Salliya	Inspection house	Irrigation department
Unchauliya	Inspection house	Ditto
<b>TANSIL NIGHASAN</b>		
Bankat	Rest house	Forest department
Bela Parsuwa	Ditto	Ditto
Belrayan	Ditto	Ditto
Belrayan	Inspection house	Public works department
Chandan Chauki	Rest house	Forest department
Changa nala	Ditto	Ditto
Dudhwa	Ditto	Ditto
Gazipur	Ghazipur Colony Inspection house	Irrigation (canal) department
Masan Khanh	Rest house	Forest department
Nighasan	Inspection house	Public works department
Palla	Ditto	Ditto
Qulla	Rest house	Forest department
Salukapur	Ditto	Ditto
Sonaripur	Ditto	Ditto
Sampurnanagar	Ditto	Ditto
Sampurnanagar	Inspection house	Public works department
Sothiyana	Rest house	Forest department

## CHAPTER VIII

### MISCELLANEOUS OCCUPATIONS

In the decennial census of 1971, the economic activities of the people have been divided into the main and subsidiary categories. All part-time workers were removed from the category of workers, included in that category at the census of 1961, being included in the subsidiary category. In 1961 and 1971, the total number of workers was 4,55,658 and 4,93,782 respectively.

All those who are economically active but are neither cultivators nor agricultural labourers, may be considered to be engaged in miscellaneous occupations. Their number was 65,729 in 1961 and 56,275 in 1971. An idea of how the non-farm workers were distributed among major categories of miscellaneous employment may be had from the following statement :

Occupation	1961	1971
Industry	18,214	16,111
Trade and commerce	10,665	12,282
Mining and quarrying	8	12
Live-stock, forestry, fishing, hunting and plantation ,		
Orchards and allied activities	7,142	1,799
Transport, storage and communication	2,961	4,149
Construction	1,922	1,292
Other service	24,817	20,680
<b>Total</b>	<b>65,729</b>	<b>56,275</b>

#### Public Service

With the growing responsibility of the government for the planned development of the country, employment opportunities under the State Government at different levels have increased considerably. The activities of the public corporations and local bodies have also greatly expanded. Some idea may be had of this, from the following table :

Type and establishments	No. of establishment			No. of employees		
	1961	1971	1974	1961	1971	1974
State Government	89	78	85	5,252	7,288	12,145
Quasi-government (Central)	1	8	13	38	165	185
Quasi-government (State)	—	1	2	—	758	914
Local bodies	5	22	23	2,780	4,566	1,025†

†The number dropped because the services of some teachers in the local bodies were transferred to the State Government under the district Basic Shiksha Adhikari.

Persons in the above services fall under the category of fixed income earners who are hard hit by the ever-rising cost of living. However, the position of Central Government employees is better than that of the employees of the State Government or the local bodies, if fringe benefits are taken into account. Dearness allowance is being paid to all classes

of such employees at rates varying in accordance with their salaries. Benefits like provident fund and medical treatment are available to the servants of the government as well as those of the local bodies, while pension facilities are extended to government servants only. Leave rules have been revised by the government to provide greater relief to temporary employees. Other benefits include granting of advances for the purchase of a conveyance, construction or repair of a house. Residential accommodation at moderate rent is made available in government colonies and suitable house rent allowance is also paid in lieu thereof, to certain categories of employees. Non-practising allowance is sanctioned to medical staff holding posts in which private practice is banned. The employees are free to form associations or unions for their welfare and for the protection and promotion of their service conditions. The State employees of the district have joined the State Employees' Joint Council and the Ministerial Employees' Association which is affiliated to its parent body at the State level. The employees of the local bodies have become members of the Local Authorities' Employees Association and the employees of the State road transport corporation are members of the Employees' Road Transport Corporation Joint Council. These are affiliated to the apex organisations at the State level.

#### LEARNED PROFESSIONS

##### **Education**

In the past, education was more or less the exclusive concern of religious teachers and institutions. The village schools, *pathshalas* and *maktabas* were run mostly by the Brahmanas or Maulvis. In those days, teaching was an act of philanthropy and no regular tuition fee was charged. The modern system of education has gradually replaced the traditional class of village tutors by a professional class of school and college teachers. Teaching continues to be regarded a noble profession, and the number of persons in it is steadily going up because of the determined policy of the government to propagate literacy and education among the masses. Avenues of employment have expanded for the teachers.

According to the census of 1961 there were 2,838 teachers (2,118 men and 220 women) in the district, of whom 28 were employed in degree and post-graduate colleges (11 men and 17 women), 434 in higher secondary schools (367 men and 67 women), 1,375 (1,318 men and 57 women) in senior Basic and junior Basic schools, 62 (61 men and 1 woman) in nursery and kindergarten schools and 489 (361 men 78 women) in places not classified. In 1974, the number of teachers rose to 5,530 (4,708 men and 822 women) of whom 77 (61 men and 16 women) were employed in degree and post-graduate colleges, 747 (626 men and 121 women) worked in the secondary schools, 4,679 (4,018 men and 661 women) taught in the primary and middle schools and 27 (3 men and 24 women) were employed in the nursery schools.

Since 1964 the triple benefit scheme has been in force in the State-aided institutions run by local bodies, or under private management. This scheme provides facilities of contributory provident fund, compulsory life insurance and pension, including family pension, to teachers. Teachers employed in government institutions are entitled to all the benefits available to other State Government employees of the State Government.

Teachers' wards are entitled to freeship in tuition fee up to intermediate classes. Needy and disabled teachers can get financial assistance from the National Foundation for Teachers' Welfare Fund. Principals, head-masters and head-mistresses of government higher secondary and normal schools and lady teachers serving in primary schools in the rural areas are entitled to residential quarters. Teachers of the district have organised themselves into various associations such as the Oel Degree College Teachers' Association, the Madhyamik Shikshak Sangh, which is affiliated to the Rajya Madhyamik Shikshak Sangh constituted by teachers of the higher secondary schools of privately managed institutions, and the Prathmik Shikshak Sangh, affiliated to its parent body at the State level by the teachers of the primary and junior high schools of the district. The chief aims of these associations are to look after the welfare of their members, and to suggest ways and means to improve their service conditions, pay and allowances.

### **Medicine**

Before the British rule, Ayurveda and Unani systems of medicine were practised by *vaidas* and *hakims*. After annexation of the district by the British in 1856, the allopathic system was introduced and dispensaries opened, with the result that the Ayurvedic and Unani systems began to lose ground. In due course, the homoeopathic system also entered the field providing relief particularly to patients from the less affluent section of the population who could not afford to take advantage of the comparatively much more expensive allopathic system of medicine.

In 1961, there were 291 medical practitioners of all systems of medicine and 358 nurses, pharmacists and other medical and health technicians in the district. In 1974, the State hospitals and dispensaries had on their staff, 70 doctors including 2 homoeopaths, 1 midwife, 26 compounders, 43 *dais*, 18 health-visitors, 16 nurses and nursing assistants, 5 sisters, 58 ward boys, 19 ward ayahs, 60 auxiliary nurses and midwives, 29 pharmacists and 102 others.

A branch of the Indian Medical Association was established in the district in 1940 with a membership of 6. The main aims of the association are to promote and advance medical and allied sciences, improve public health, extend medical facilities and maintain the honour and dignity of the medical professions through active co-operation amongst its members.

### **Law**

The profession attracts law graduates and a few retired persons possessing law degrees. In 1961, there were about 183 practising lawyers in the district. They had one or more *moharrirs* (clerks) depending on the size of their clientele. The State Government appoints district government counsels for criminal, civil and revenue work from among eligible legal practitioners to represent the State in district courts. To assist the district government counsels some advocates are appointed as panel lawyers also.

The practice of law is among the leading, though over-crowded, professions of the district, and lawyers occupy a position of respect in the social life of the community. They supply active leadership in almost all spheres of public activity particularly in the social and political spheres. Most lawyers practice at the district headquarters, as important courts are located there.

The legal practitioners of the district have organised themselves into the Kheri Bar Association, which is a registered body. It was established in 1914. In 1974, it had a membership of about 164 legal practitioners. It has a library, a reading-room and a recreation club for members. The main aims of the association are to safeguard the interests of the legal profession.

In 1974, there were 6 judges, 1 *munsif*, 3 magistrates and 184 pleaders and advocates.

### **Engineering**

Engineering services in this district are represented mainly by four branches, the building and roads, the irrigation, the local self-government engineering and the hydel services. They have separate divisions of survey, design and construction. In 1974 these branches employed 96 engineers and junior engineers. The municipal board, Kheri, and the Zila Parishad have one engineer each. A large number of overseers, now called junior engineers, linemen and draughtsmen are also engaged in these branches. Several industrial establishments of the district have on their pay roll qualified engineers and diploma holders. Besides these, there are some engineers and diploma holders, architects and surveyors who work privately.

## **DOMESTIC AND PERSONAL SERVICE**

### **Domestic Servants**

Domestic servants are employed by those who can afford to do so. With the rising cost of living people prefer to hire part-time workers for services like domestic chores, and grazing cattle. Many servants in the town hail from the hills or from rural areas and are paid monthly in cash or in cash and kind both. They have no security of job and often change their masters. They dwell in slums or in out-houses or accommodation provided by their employers. In 1961, there were 1,656 cooks, female servants and related workers of whom 666 were cooks and cook-bearers. There were 492 butlers, bearers, waiters and maid-servants and 25 *ayahs*, nurse-maids and house-keepers. The number of cleaners, sweepers and watermen was 1,152.

### **Barbers**

Barbers still play a significant role in the life of the district, particularly, in villages as they render important services on such occasions as marriages and deaths. At times they act as go-between when marriage alliances are negotiated but now the parents or the parties themselves settle marriages. In the past, barbers or *nais* and *hajjams* used to visit families at regular intervals rendering service, but with the advance of time they have opened saloons particularly in the towns and

no longer move from house to house. The number of barbers, hair-dressers, beauticians and related workers was 1,400 of whom 194 worked in the urban areas in 1961.

### **Washermen**

In cities and towns, the washerman still goes from house to house collecting dirty linen for washing. But he is no longer as familiar a figure as he was some years back. His washing and ironing charges have gone up. Washing at home is preferred primarily due to the superior quality of fabrics and the craze for synthetic weaving apparel. The laundries and dry-cleaning units are mainly located in the urban areas and have become quite popular because they are prompt and regular in delivery of clothes. In 1961, there were in the district 1,067 washermen including dry-cleaners, launderers and pressers of whom 199 worked in the urban areas.

### **Tailors**

The sewing machine is widely used in urban areas but in villages clothes are also sometimes hand-sewn even now, though a few tailors also ply their trade there. In the rural areas *kurtas*, shirts and pyjamas continue to be the chief items of dress. In urban areas tailoring is considered to be an art and needs specialised training. Reputed tailors do the cutting of dresses themselves but employ a number of workers on daily or monthly wages for stitching them and for sundry other jobs.

In 1961, there were in the district 1,778 tailors and related workers.

### **OTHER OCCUPATIONS**

Among those pursuing other occupations in the district in 1961, there were 1,788 hawkers, pedlars and street vendors, 887 drawers and weavers, 811 jewellers, goldsmiths and silversmiths, 802 carpenters and pattern makers (wood), 800 bricklayers, plasterers and masons, 701 mechanics and repairmen, 695 potters and related clay formers, 622 bakers, confectioners, candy and sweetmeat makers, 581 salesmen and shop assistants, 589 fishermen and related workers, 500 khandsari, sugar and gur makers, 469 crushers and related workers, 458 log fellers and wood-cutters, 458 basket weavers and related workers, 427 housekeepers, matrons and stewards (domestic and institutional), 899 shoe-makers and shoe-repairers, 397 gardeners, 284 musicians, 266 hunters and related workers, 237 drivers and road transport workers including *palki* and *doli* bearers, 192 furnace-men, kilnmen and ovenmen, 155 dancers and related workers, 145 sawyers and wood working machinist, 143 stone cutters, stone carvers and stone dressers, 100 ordained religious workers, 69 plumbers and pipe fitters, 61 jewellers and engravers, 48 knitters and lace makers, 42 bleachers, dyers and finishers, 41 photographers and camera operators, 29 tobacco manufacturers and related workers, 18 precision instrument makers watch and clock makers and repairmen, 18 choroot, cigar and *bidi* (indigenous cigarette made of *tendu* leaves and tobacco) makers, 11 painters and paper hangers.

## CHAPTER IX

### ECONOMIC TRENDS

#### LIVELIHOOD PATTERN

The proportion of the population dependent on agriculture was found to be 75.6 per cent of the total population of 9,05,138 persons in 1901, 76 per cent of the total number of 9,59,225 persons in 1911, and 84.9 per cent of the total number of 9,13,496 persons in 1921. By 1951 it rose to 86.1 per cent of the district population, i.e., 10,58,878. The actual number of persons depending on agriculture had risen to 9,13,439 in 1951 from 7,75,734 in 1921 being a rise of 17.5 per cent. In 1951, the percentage for the State was 74.2.

#### **Workers and Non-workers**

In 1921, the percentage of workers to the total population was 47.3 per cent (agricultural workers 38.4 per cent and non-agricultural 8.9 per cent) but by 1951 it had come down to 37.9 per cent (agricultural 31.9 per cent and non-agricultural 6 per cent). The censuses that followed the one in 1951 pooled the dependents of all those engaged in various forms of economic activity into one class, defined as non-workers. Consequently the data after 1951 do not help in indicating the degree of dependence on agricultural and non-agricultural activities among the people of the district.

In 1961 the census authorities adopted a definition of workers which somewhat differs from what was used in 1971. Hence an exact comparison of the figures of the number and classification of workers as reported in 1961 with the corresponding information reported in 1971 is not possible. With this reservation, the comparative position of the information as provided by the census of 1961 and 1971 is given below :

Year	Total population	Total number of workers	Percentage of workers to total population			
			Agricultural workers	Non-agri-cultural workers	Total workers	
			District	Uttar Pradesh		
1961	12,58,433	4,55,653	80.9	5.3	36.2	39.1
1971	14,86,590	4,98,782	29.4	3.8	33.2	30.9

A cursory reading will thus indicate an alarming decrease in the working population in the district and indicate unemployment even amongst the persons shown as employed in 1961. This apparent anomaly is explained by the fact that the definition of worker in 1961 was different from that in 1971, and admitted of the inclusion of many persons in the category of workers who were excluded from being so classified according to the definition of 'worker' adopted in 1971. In 1961 even an hour's work in a day entitled a person to be treated as a worker and women employed only in household chores including taking

food to the fields for their men folk and tending of cattle were also defined as workers. But in the census of 1971 a man or a woman who was engaged primarily in household duties such as cooking for the household or helped in the family's economic activities but not as a full-time worker was not treated as worker and categorised a non-worker.

Workers have now been classified into nine major divisions, the basis of the classification being those economic activities which were similar in respect of process, raw material and the products. The nine divisions of workers and the number of persons engaged in them in 1971 were as follows :

Name	Male	Female	Total	Percentage to total workers	Percentage of total population
1. Cultivators	3,72,144	4,776	3,76,920	76.32	25.36
2. Agricultural labourers	57,254	8,333	60,587	12.32	4.08
3. Live-stock, forestry, fishing, hunting, plantations, orchards and allied activities	1,772	27	1,799	0.87	0.09
4. Mining and quarrying	6	0	12	—	—
5. Manufacturing processing, servicing and repairs :					
(a) Household industry	4,867	264	5,181	1.04	0.84
(b) Other than household industry	10,799	181	10,980	2.22	0.74
6. Construction	1,292	—	1,292	8.25	0.08
7. Trade and commerce	12,120	153	12,282	2.48	0.88
8. Transport, storage and communications	4,079	70	4,149	0.84	0.29
9. Other services	10,484	1,146	20,630	4.16	1.89
Total workers	4,83,826	9,956	4,93,782	100.00	88.20
Non-workers	3,31,178	6,61,630	9,92,808	—	—
Total population	8,15,004	6,71,586	14,86,590	—	—

All non-workers have been grouped together in one single class but they have been classified in the census of 1971 as follows :

- (a) Full-time students
- (b) Those attending to household duties
- (c) Dependents and infants
- (d) Retired persons and rentiers

- (e) Persons of independent means
- (f) Beggars and vagrants
- (g) Inmates of penal, mental and charitable institutions
- (h) Others

People in the district are largely dependent on agriculture for their livelihood.

### GENERAL LEVEL OF PRICES AND WAGES

#### Prices

In the beginning of the British rule, the economic situation remained more or less stagnant, but gradually with the decay of village and cottage industries and with the rise in population the economic condition of the people even with the availability of more money further deteriorated. A significant rise in prices marked the last years of the Second World War, and assumed alarming proportions after independence.

After annexation of the district by the British, the average prices of food-grains had remained lower in the district as compared to other districts of Avadh, mostly due to scarcity of money. The earliest known prices, of wheat, rice, barley, jowar and *bajra* (pearl millet) in the district are those of 1861-75 when wheat could be purchased at 28.05 seers, common rice at 18.55 seers, the lowest variety being sold at 24.05 seers in 1875, barley at 36.68 seers, jowar at 33.07 seers, *bajra* at 30.68 seers and gram at 24.89 seers to a rupee. From 1876 to 1885 the prices rose gradually but markedly due to the famine and large export of food-grains from the district. The average prices to a rupee for this decade were 15.87 seers for rice, 22 seers for wheat, 32.85 seers for barley, 34.68 seers for jowar, 29.54 seers for *bajra* and 24.17 seers for gram. The averages of the five years ending 1881 show a still further rise, the average price of wheat was 18.3 seers, 14.88 seers for rice, 26.37 seers for barley, 24.67 seers for jowar, 22.48 seers for *bajra* and 28.71 seers for gram to a rupee. From 1891-1900 averages of the decade show still further rise. The upward tendency was accelerated by bad harvests and declining cultivation. The district soon recovered from famine. During 1901-10 rice averaged 12.48 seers, wheat 14.5 seers, barley 22.51 seers, jowar 24.55 seers, *bajra* 19.83 seers and gram 17.92 seers to a rupee. In 1924-25 the prices further rose and the rates were rice 5 seers, wheat 7.25 seers, barley 12.50 seers, jowar 10 seers, *bajra* 10.50 seers, *arhar* (a kind of pulse) 8 seers and gram 11 seers to a rupee.

The world-wide slump in prices of the 1930's caused continuous and severe depression. Contraction of currency, depression in the trade and abundant supplies of grain were responsible for this slump. The prices in 1931-32, when the economic depression was at its peak, came down to an alarming extent as compared with those in the previous years due to which the cultivators were hard hit. The following statement gives the rates of some essential commodities from 1927-28 to 1931-32 when the economic depression was at its peak :

Year	Rates per rupee in seers							
	Wheat	Barley	Gram (common)	Rice (common)	Maize	Arhar	Jowar	Jaggery
1927-28	8.00	18.70	7.75	8.00	13.00	8.75	14.55	6.00
1928-29	7.72	11.25	8.00	4.50	9.55	7.95	7.00	5.50
1929-30	11.80	17.75	18.00	4.25	12.00	14.43	18.80	8.00
1930-31	17.75	35.55	17.75	8.00	29.06	26.00	37.50	12.00
1931-32	16.88	23.68	22.00	8.56	33.68	15.00	26.68	18.00

The effect of the depression lasted till 1936, after which prices began to recover. On the outbreak of the Second World War in 1939, a spurt was noticed in the commodity market and the prices of food-grains and other essential goods had to be controlled. In 1940, price control measures were tightened, but they proved ineffective. The prices continued to go up.

In 1948, partial rationing was introduced in the urban areas. Under this scheme wheat and rice were made available at subsidised rates to ration card holders and the markets were allowed to function normally. Conditions did not improve by these measures. Supply of food-grains to the markets remained inadequate, and prices went up further.

It was expected that after the termination of the war and as a result of the enforcement of several price control measures taken by the government, the general food situation would ease but it did not; the price level in 1944 was higher by 316 per cent than that of 1911 and by 115 per cent than that of 1939. The period between 1948 and July, 1952 was that of rationing and controls.

A change in government policy with regard to rationing and controls was brought about in 1952. Total rationing was abolished. The system of issuing food-grains to ration card holders from ration shops was, however, continued in order to arrest any rising trend. As a result of the withdrawal of these controls, there was no fall in the prices of food-grains as expected. On the contrary, the prices of food-grains went up. But by the end of 1953, prices tended to come down. The normal laws of demand and supply once again started adjusting the prices. The withdrawal of all its financial restrictions by government from the agricultural market had the effects of softening prices. The cultivator was not sure of getting a minimum price for his produce, nor was the trader assured of his earning a commission on its supplies. The nervousness of the cultivator and the trader led to a further decline in prices. In consequence the downward trend which had started in 1953, could not be stopped and by 1955 the prices per seer were Re 0.40 for wheat, Re 0.45 for rice (common) and Re 0.30 for gram. In order to check further fall in prices so as to avoid hardship to the farmers, the government

had to take measures under the price support scheme. Prices, thereafter, again showed a gradual upward trend, and in 1960, the prices per kg. became Re 0.45 for wheat, Re 0.75 for gram and Re 0.50 for common rice. Prices thereafter never showed a downward and have continued to rise.

Retail prices of principal food-grains from 1950 to 1974 were as under :

Year	Rates per kg. (in rupees)		
	Wheat	Gram	Rice (coarse)
1950	0.20	0.25	0.25
1955	0.40	0.80	0.45
1960	0.45	0.45	0.50
1965	0.75	0.75	0.80
1970	0.78	0.78	1.28
1971	0.87	0.72	1.14
1972	1.08	1.14	1.81
1973	1.16	1.66	1.51
1974	1.68	2.04	1.98

Retail prices of certain other essential commodities obtaining in Lakhimpur town in 1974 were as follows :

Commodity	Rates per kg. (in rupees)
Dal arhar	4.00
Ghee	20.00
Jaggery	2.25
Mustard oil	10.50
Sugar	5.00

### Wages

In 1900 unskilled labourers and practically all farm workers were paid in grains. A farm worker was paid 1.5 seers of grain daily with a blanket annually. For reaping a labourer was given one heap out of twenty gathered by him. Digging was treated as a piece work in most cases and when waste land was broken up the common rate varied from

to 3 bighas for a rupee according to the nature of the soil. An agricultural worker, whenever paid in cash, received 2 annas a day. Semi-skilled labourers such as carpenters and blacksmiths received wages ranging from three to four annas a day according to their proficiency and the nature of work done. They were paid either in cash or in grain. The wages of field workers and skilled workers have risen considerably since 1965. The rise in wages has not kept pace with the increase in prices, probably due to the increase in population.

A comparative survey of rural wages for un-skilled and skilled labourer for certain years from 1906 to 1974 is given in the statement that follows :

Year	Wages (in Rs per day)	
	Unskilled labourer	Skilled labourer
1906	0.12	0.28
1911	0.12	0.35
1916	0.14	0.40
1928	0.20	0.60
1934	0.15	0.50
1939	0.19	0.50
1944	0.56	1.00
1965	3.00	6.00
1971	4.00	9.00
1974	5.00	10.00

Wages rose in sympathy with the rising prices after 1914, when the First World War began, the rise being most marked in 1928. The economic depression of the thirties of the century caused a fall in wages after 1930. However, the Second World War saw a rise in wages in sympathy with the rise in prices. This trend has continued and the wages for an unskilled labourer rose from Rs 1.50 in 1950 to Rs 3 in 1960. The skilled labourer who received Rs 2 in 1950 accepted Rs 4 in 1960. The wages have further increased in the last one decade. The unskilled hand demanded Rs 3 to Rs 3.50 in 1965 and Rs 5 in 1974 whereas the skilled workers received Rs 5 to 7 in 1965 and Rs 10 to 12 in 1974.

Wages in urban areas were slightly higher than those in rural areas. Wages for various operations such as ploughing, irrigation, weeding and reaping were about Rs 5 per day, the working hours being eight.

Wages of certain categories of manual workers prevailing in Lakhimpur town in 1974 are given below :

Occupation	Unit of quotation	Wages (in Rs)
Gardener	(a) Per month (whole-time) (b) Per month (part-time)	75.00 20.00
Chowkidar	Per month	150.00
Wood-cutter	Per maund (37.8 kg.) of wood turned into fuel	0.75
Herdsman	(a) Per cow (per month) (b) Per buffalow (per month)	8.00 5.00
Porter	Per maund (37.8 kg.) of load carried for 1.4 km.	1.00
Casual labour	Per day	5.50
Domestic servant	(a) Per month without food (b) Per month with food	120.00 60.00
Carpenter	Per day	12.00
Blacksmith	Per day	10.00
Tailor	(a) Per cotton shirt (b) Per woollen suit (c) Per cotton suit	4.00 85.00 40.00
Midwife	(a) Per delivery of a boy (b) Per delivery of a girl	20.00 15.00
Barber	(a) For shave (b) For haircut	0.40 1.15
Motor driver	Per month	250.00
Truck driver	Per month	350.00
Scavenger	For a house with one latrine for one cleaning per day	10.00

#### GENERAL LEVEL OF EMPLOYMENT

Earlier, in this chapter, it has been said that of the "workers" according to the census of 1971, cultivators and agricultural labourers formed 88.64 per cent. This means that "workers" engaged in other economic activities constituted only 11.36 per cent of the total number of workers. The small number of people employed in non-agricultural pursuits indicates that opportunities of employment in general, have been meagre, there being little scope for the change in the job of "workers" from agriculture to other sectors of the economy.

There are large-scale industrial units manufacturing sugar but they give seasonal employment only. Some small-scale industries are based on agricultural and forest produce. Some of these employ seasonal labour. The workers in industries like handloom, weaving, engineering, tailoring, oil pressing and pottery were mostly self employed.

### Employment Trends

The statistics collected under the employment market information scheme during 1969-78, the distribution of employees in selected establishments in the private and public sectors was as under :

Year	No. of establishments			No. of employees		
	Private sector	Public sector	Total	Private sector	Public sector	Total
1969	81	91	172	3,509	11,608	15,117
1970	88	90	178	5,145	12,728	17,873
1971	81	109	190	4,792	12,777	17,569
1972	78	115	193	5,498	18,848	18,841
1978	79	128	202	5,609	18,991	19,600

The employment pattern in the above mentioned units during 1972 and 1978 is further classified as below :

Nature of activity	No. of reporting establishments			No. of employees						
			1972			1978				
	1972	1973	Private sector	Public sector	Total	Private sector	Public sector	Total	1972	1978
Agriculture, live-stock, hunting and fishing	11	11	—	1,605	1,605	—	1,688	1,688		
Manufacturing	22	22	8,410	—	8,410	8,535	—	8,535		
Construction	6	12	—	1,268	1,268	—	1,506	1,506		
Electricity, gas, water and sanitary services	10	8	—	1,185	1,185	—	1,826	1,826		
Trade and commerce	21	25	172	282	404	178	236	414		
Transport, storage and communications	3	3	18	—	18	21	—	21		
Services	120	121	1,898	9,058	10,956	1,875	9,285	11,160		
Total	198	202	5,498	13,343	18,841	5,609	18,991	19,600		

### Employment of Women

That fewer women are employed than men is obvious from the following table :

	No. as on December 31, 1978
No. of reporting establishments	202
No. of women employees in public sector	775
No. of women employees in private sector	167
Total number of women employees	942
Percentage of women employees in private sector to total number of employees in that sector	8.0
Percentage of women employees in public sector to total number of employees in that sector	5.5

Distribution of women workers in the various spheres of employment is indicated below :

Spheres	Percentage
Education	75
Medical and public health	25

### Unemployment Trends

The numbers of men and women who sought employment in different spheres during the year ending December, 1978 are as follows :

Educational standard	Men	Women	Total
Post-graduate	81	9	40
Graduate	517	29	546
Intermediate/under graduate	1,229	32	1,261
Matriculate	1,548	71	1,619
Below matriculate including illiterate	8,579	254	8,833
<b>Total</b>	<b>6,904</b>	<b>895</b>	<b>7,299</b>

Vacancies notified to the employment exchange during the quarter ending December, 1978 numbered 121 of which 88 were notified by the State Government, 22 by the local bodies and 11 by the private sector.

The district experienced shortage of stenographers, trained science teachers, draughtsmen (civil), pharmacists, nurses and midwives. Unskilled labourers and persons without previous experience or technical training were surplus to the requirement.

The forest department and the malaria eradication unit of the district employs, on a seasonal basis, a big force of labour, mostly drawn from Gonda, Basti, Gorakhpur and Deoria districts.

### Employment Exchange

The employment exchange was established at Lakhimpur on March 1, 1949. It was also called upon to deal with resettlement of a large number of persons who were displaced as a result of the partition of the country in 1947. However, it was closed down in April, 1958. In December, 1960 it was revived and since then it has been functioning under the charge of a whole-time employment officer.

The introduction of the Compulsory Notification of Vacancies Act, 1959, and the Apprenticeship Act of 1961 have widened the scope for the services of the employment exchange. Vocational guidance and collection of information relating to occupation and training have been added to the normal registration and placement activities of the exchange. The following statement gives an idea of the assistance rendered by the employment exchange from 1969 to 1973 :

Year	Vacan- cies notified by em- ployers	No. of persons regis- tered for em- ployment	No. on live register	Persons provided with employment				
				Domes- tic service	Teach- ing	Tech- nical jobs	Gov- ernment service	Other fields
1969	658	5,558	2,848	91	9	45	488	13
1970	1,148	6,773	3,134	115	140	26	1,000	14
1971	1,100	6,733	4,843	78	8	26	949	■
1972	1,141	8,150	6,970	95	182	27	870	36
1973	1,257	7,617	7,200	83	200	63	1,092	10

The employment market information scheme was introduced by the exchange in December, 1962 for public and private sectors. Under the scheme an effort is made to find out quarterly the number of persons employed in the two sectors, the number of posts under them that fell vacant and the type of jobs for which availability of qualified candidates was poor.

For purposes of assisting individuals in making the choice of occupations : vocational guidance unit was established in 1969 in the district. During the year 1973, about 2,610 candidates attended group guidance

talks, 788 individuals sought guidance and individual guidance information was sought by 1,244 persons. The employment authorities paid as many as 26 visits to the educational institutions for purposes like career talks and supply of career literature for the benefit of the students.

### NATIONAL PLANNING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Under the British rule, the question of national planning and rural development did not receive much attention and whatever efforts were made in this direction were merely the outcome of political considerations and were confined to such activities as sanitation and expansion of agricultural facilities to the villages. Since efforts to improve the conditions of the people in rural areas were made for the first time when the Congress government came into office in the State in 1937. A scheme of rural development was adopted in certain villages of the district. Subsequently a rural development association was formed at the district headquarters, which was more or less advisory. It had a nominated non-official chairman and a subdivisional magistrate as secretary. The work related largely to rural hygiene, construction of roads, establishment of libraries, construction of panchayat-Ghars and night schools for adults and allied developmental activities. With the outbreak of the Second World War in September, 1939, the Congress government went out of office and the rural development scheme was therefore, shelved till May, 1947, when this work was merged with that of the co-operative department. The rural development association was replaced by the district development association with a non-official chairman and the district co-operative officer as secretary.

With the setting up of the planning commission of India in 1950, development activities took a more purposeful turn. In 1951, the commission presented the First Five-year Plan (1951-56) in which agriculture, including irrigation and power, was given the highest priority and necessary funds were allocated to various States which, in turn, earmarked suitable amounts for expenditure in the districts. A department for planning and development was also opened and in 1952, the district development association was replaced by the district planning committee with the district magistrate as its chairman and the district planning officer as secretary. It had a number of sub-committees for the preparation and execution of plan programmes. The district planning committee however, remained only an advisory body.

In the year 1952, for the first time, community development blocks were opened in the State, but in this district the first development block was opened at Bhejam (tahsil Lakhimpur) on January 26, 1954, followed by 14 such other blocks later on throughout the district.

After the completion of the First Five-year Plan in March, 1956, the Second Five-year Plan came into operation with effect from April, 1956. The scope of the Second Five-year Plan was enlarged to include industrialisation and it was decided that the whole district be divided into a number of development blocks for the implementation of the various plan schemes in the district.

The First and Second Five-year Plans were executed by the district planning committee. The second half of the Second Five-year Plan period saw the constitution of the Antarim Zila Parishad (now the Zila Parishad) in the district in 1958, by amalgamating the district planning committee and the district board.

For the successful implementation of the planning and development programmes a three-tier structure of local self-government bodies was adopted from December, 1961. Accordingly, there exists a village panchayat at the village level, a Kshettra Samiti at the block level and the Zila Parishad at the district level. For the co-ordinated execution of different plan schemes, the resources of the agriculture, co-operative, animal husbandry, panchayat Raj and some other departments and organisations have been pooled together and put under the control of the district planning officer. Some particulars about these blocks are given in the following statement :

Tahsil	Name of block	Present stage	Date of inauguration	No. of Gaon Sabhas	No. of Nyaya panchayats	Area (in hectares)
Lakhimpur	Bhejam	Post-stage II	26-1-1954	91	11	20,527
Ditto	Phool Behar	Ditto	1-4-1958	66	9	43,589
Ditto	Lakhimpur	Ditto	1-4-1959	122	15	89,288
Ditto	Bankeganj	Ditto	1-10-1960	50	7	57,681
Ditto	Nakha	Ditto	1-4-1961	75	10	34,186
Ditto	Bijuwa	Ditto	1-4-1962	79	11	71,142
Muhamdi	Muhamdi	Ditto	2-10-1956	108	12	45,640
Ditto	Mitsuli	Ditto	2-10-1955	94	11	89,915
Ditto	Pasgawan	Ditto	1-10-1959	123	14	47,518
Ditto	Kumbhi	Ditto	1-4-1960	81	10	88,910
Nighasan	Nighasan	Ditto	2-10-1954	63	9	69,649
Ditto	Isanagar	Ditto	2-10-1956	90	11	42,698
Ditto	Dhaurahra	Ditto	1-4-1958	51	7	87,089
Ditto	Palia	Ditto	1-10-1961	28	4	1,11,219
Ditto	Ramian Behar	Ditto	1-10-1962	46	8	60,803

The Kshettra Samiti is responsible for all the developmental activities within a block. The block development officer is the executive officer of the Kshettra Samiti. He is assisted by a number of assistant development officers including those for agriculture, animal husbandry, co-operatives and panchayats. At the village level, there is a multipurpose worker designated as *gram sevak* (village level worker) to work for all the development departments.

## CHAPTER X

### GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

After the annexation of Avadh, the territory, which now comprises the district, and then stood divided between the old districts, of Mullanpur and Muhamdi and parts of the Hardoi and Sitapur districts was carried out to form this district, with headquarters at Lakhimpur. It is one of the six districts of the Lucknow Division having the commissioner's headquarters at Lucknow.

#### **Commissioner**

He functions as a vital link between the districts under him and the government. Invariably backed by a substantial amount of administrative experience, he supervises all administrative and development activities in his Division. He controls, guides and advises district and regional officers, solves inter-departmental problems and assesses the work of officers of the various departments. On the appellate side, his jurisdiction extends to hearing appeals and revisions under the U.P. Zamindari Abolition and Land Reforms Act, 1950 and various other enactments. He is the chairman of the regional transport authority and has extensive powers for the supervision of the Zila Parishad, the municipal boards and other local bodies in his Division.

#### **District Officer**

The general administration of the district is vested in the district officer, designated as deputy commissioner as in the erstwhile non-regulated provinces. Though the distinction between regulated and non-regulated provinces no longer holds, yet the designation of the head of the district as deputy commissioner persists in all the districts of Avadh. The officer exercises the powers of a collector under the Land Revenue Act and performs the duties of a district magistrate under the Code of Criminal Procedure.

The district officer is the highest executive authority and the pivot of the entire general administrative machinery in the district. He represents the government in the district in practically all spheres of activity. As head of the revenue administration, his main duties are the recovery of land revenue and other government dues and the maintenance of the land records of the district correctly and up to date. He is in charge of the government treasury. He also supervises the work of consolidation of holdings and hears appeals under the U.P. Consolidation of Holdings Act. He is expected to tour for about 90 days in the interior of his district every year to acquaint himself with the conditions prevailing in the district generally, and with special reference to the state of agriculture in it. When the district is visited by natural calamities such as floods, excessive rains, hail-storms and drought affecting agriculture or upon the accidental outbreak of fire, the district officer has to assess the damage caused, and to take ameliorative measures himself or suggest them to superior authorities.

The district police being subordinate to him, he is the highest authority responsible for the maintenance of law and order in the district. He is expected to maintain a close watch on the investigation and prosecution of crimes and the upkeep of undertrials and prisoners in the jail. He is responsible for the enforcement of the Press Act, the Stamps Act and the Entertainment and Betting Tax Act and Rules. He has also to ensure equitable distribution of food-grains and other essential commodities through fair price shops with the help of the district supply officer. He is, *ex officio*, the district election officer and also the president of the district soldiers', sailors' and airmen's board.

The district officer is responsible for the proper and effective implementation of the various projects and schemes which are formulated by the government from time to time for general welfare and development of the district including work relating to the census, Van Mahotsava, wild life preservation, investments in small savings, raising of loan for the State Government, and, a recent addition, the sale of State lottery tickets. He is also responsible for the distribution of surplus land to landless labourers in the district with the assistance of an additional district magistrate (ceiling).

For purposes of co-ordination of the different development departments functioning in the district, he is assisted by a district development officer at the district level and block development officers at the block level.

The district officer has under him 3 subdivisional officers who perform duties relating to revenue administration, and the maintenance of law and order as magistrates in the subdivisions.

For purposes of revenue administration each of the three tahsils Lakhimpur, Muhamdi and Nighasan is in the immediate charge of a tahsildar who acts as a magistrate in addition to being an assistant collector of the first class. He presides at the tahsil office and court. His main duties are the collection of land revenue and other government dues, maintenance of land records and law and order and the trial of cases both revenue and criminal. He is also called upon to take measures to give relief on the occurrence of calamities both natural and accidental. The three tahsildars in the district are assisted in their work by 15 *naib-tahsildars*, 162 collection *amins* (petty revenue officials) and 882 *lekhpal*s (petty land records officials), mainly responsible for the preparation and correct maintenance of the land records of their circles.

The police organisation which is responsible for the maintenance of law and order in the district is headed by a superintendent of police. He is in overall charge of the police force and is responsible for its efficiency, discipline and proper functioning. He is assisted by 3 deputy superintendents of police and a large number of subordinate officers as given in Chapter XII.

At the head of the judicial organisation of the district is the district judge, with headquarters at Lakhimpur. He is the highest authority for the administration of justice, civil and criminal, in the district.

### OTHER DISTRICT LEVEL OFFICERS OF STATE GOVERNMENT

The designations of other district level officers in the district working under the administrative control of their departmental heads are :

- Assistant Engineer, Minor Irrigation
- Assistant Registrar, Co-operative Societies
- Basic Shiksha Adhikari
- Conservator of Forests
- Consolidation Officer (Settlement)
- District Agriculture Officer
- District Canoe Officer
- District Chief Medical Officer
- District Employment Officer
- District Harijan and Social Welfare Office
- District Industries Officer
- District Inspector of Schools
- District Live-stock Officer
- District Probation Officer
- District Statistics Officer
- District Supply Officer
- Executive Engineer, Irrigation (Tube-wells)
- Sales Tax Officer
- Soil Conservation Officer
- Superintending Engineer, Canals
- Superintending Engineer, Public Works Department
- Superintendent of Jail
- Treasury Officer
- Zonal Jute Development Officer

### CENTRAL GOVERNMENT OFFICES

#### **Income-tax Department**

For purposes of income-tax, the district comes under the administrative control of the inspecting assistant commissioner of income-tax, Burdilly. The appellate jurisdiction rests with the appellate assistant commissioner of income-tax, Lucknow. An income-tax officer assisted by an inspector is posted in the district for purposes of assessment and collection of the tax.

#### **Central Excise**

The district is placed under the charge of a superintendent of central excise, with headquarters at Sitapur for purposes of excise administration. A central excise inspector is posted in the district to assess and collect excise duty on excisable commodities such as unmanufactured tobacco, copper and copper alloys and gold.

#### **Directorate of National Savings**

The district is under the jurisdiction of the assistant regional director, national savings, having headquarters at Sitapur. A district savings officer is stationed at the headquarters of the district for educating the public about the benefits of small savings and popularising the various schemes of national savings launched by the government from time to time.

### **Indian Post and Telegraph Department**

The district comes under the jurisdiction of the senior superintendent of post-offices, Sitapur postal division, with headquarters at Sitapur. The postmaster is incharge of the head post-office.

### **Railways**

The North Eastern railway traverses the district which comes under the jurisdiction of the divisional superintendent of railways, Lucknow division, with headquarters at Lucknow.

### **Directorate of Field Publicity**

The field publicity unit established in the district on February 28, 1974, is one of the 21 units presently working in the Uttar Pradesh region under the overall administrative control of the regional publicity officer stationed at Lucknow. This programme is sponsored by the department of information and broadcasting, Government of India under border publicity scheme. The district of Shahjahanpur also comes under the jurisdiction of this unit. It aims at giving information on current social, economic, cultural and educational subjects to the common man through films, talks and cultural programmes such as folk-songs and dramas. It also organises special programmes during the fairs and the exhibitions and on certain special days in the schools and colleges for the youths and in industrial areas for the workers.

The officer incharge of the organisation in the district is the field publicity officer having a staff consisting of a field publicity assistant and other subordinate officials.

## CHAPTER XI

### REVENUE ADMINISTRATION

#### Fiscal History

During ancient times the region covered by the present district of Kheri formed a part of the Hastinapur kingdom<sup>1</sup>. Since the earliest regimes of the Hindu chiefs, the immediate ruler was the owner of all land and the tillers paid to him, in cash or kind, a portion of their produce as tribute in return for the protection afforded to their lives and properties by him. The ruler's share in the produce seems to have varied from time to time, though the *smritis*, the ancient Hindu law books, defined it as one-sixth.

The early Muslim rulers, who established themselves at Delhi in 1206 A.D., were more interested in pursuing wars of conquest than in administration. Their successors realised a fixed amount of tax from the petty rulers who accepted their suzerainty and who in turn collected revenue from the cultivators in order to pay their tributes to the king. Thus they played the role of intermediaries between the cultivator and the sovereign power. Bahlul Lodhi (1450-88) made over the tract covered by the present district to Muhammad Khan Farmuli who was indeed, given the whole of Avadh in jagir<sup>2</sup>. As the practice of making assignments of land became a lasting feature of administration, the assignees set-up the claim that their rights in their jagirs were heritable. The assignees remained, generally speaking, in possession of their jagirs till the reign of Akbar (1556-1605) whose accession marked the complete overhauling of revenue administration. Under the guidance of Raja Todar Mal, the share of the government was fixed ordinarily at one-third of the gross produce, payable in kind, but was subsequently revised to include option to make cash payment, calculated according to the pargana rates<sup>3</sup>. These rates were arrived at after the classification of the soil, by calculating the price of grain on an average of the prices prevalent in the previous nineteen years, and applying the average so obtained to a share which was one-third of the average gross produce<sup>4</sup>. The settlements of revenue were made annually, but later on, covered a period of ten years. The cultivator, therefore, acquired a certain measure of stability in regard to the amount of revenue payable by him to the state year after year, and also about the prospects of the benefits of his industry going to him<sup>5</sup>. Akbar also introduced the new revenue year, called the *Fasli* year, which is still in use for all purposes

<sup>1</sup> Nevill, H.R. : *A Gazetteer, Kheri*, (Allahabad, 1927), p. 137

<sup>2</sup> Elliot and Dowson : *The History of India as Told by Its Own Historians*, Vol. IV, p. 852

<sup>3</sup> Moreland, W.H. : *The Agrarian System of Moslim India*, p. 88

<sup>4</sup> Abul Fazl : *Ain-i-Akbari* Eng. Trans. by H.S. Jarret, (Calcutta, 1949), Vol. II, p. 75

<sup>5</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 94

of land records and revenue. What is more important to note, however, is that Akbar disliked farming of revenue which he considered would inevitably lead to oppression. He appointed collectors and they were directed to negotiate assessments of revenue with the cultivators rather than with the headman of the village.

In Akbar's time the district formed part of the subah of Avadh and most of it belonged to the sirkar of Khairabad. Of the twenty-two *mahals* that made up the Khairabad sirkar, eight lay within the area comprising the present district<sup>1</sup>. The first two were Barwar-Anjana which remained a single unit for a long time. The *mahal* of Anjana covered a large area and included principally the present parganas of Muhamdi, Magdapur, Atwa, Piparia, Pargawan and Alampagar<sup>2</sup>. These two *mahals* had 79,671 bighas of cultivated land and yielded 4,35,487 dams as revenue to the imperial treasury. Bhurwara, another *mahal* in the district had 8,971 bighas of land paying a revenue of 4,35,430 dams. The *mahal* of Kheriragh had 42,052 bighas of cultivation and was assessed at 18,29,228 dams. Another *mahal* of Paila had a cultivated area of 982 bighas assessed at 48,202 dams. The *mahal* of Kheri had 2,60,168 bighas of cultivation, paying a revenue of 32,50,522 dams. The remaining *mahal* of Basiragh had 60,063 bighas of cultivation but the amount of revenue of this *mahal* is not known<sup>3</sup>.

Akbar's successors, however, allowed his reforms to fall into disuse. They introduced the practice of allotting large areas as jagirs to their courtiers and officers for their own maintenance and for the upkeep of the troops which they were supposed to keep in readiness for the service of Emperor and this served to bring into existence a class of persons who derived their power from the Emperor but sustenance from the land assigned to them. In course of time, they assumed greater authority with the help of the armed forces they engaged, and finally became the virtual owners of these jagirs<sup>4</sup>. It was but a short step to make the office and the jagirs appertinent to them hereditary. The jagirdars were thus the fore-runners of the landed aristocracy which later on, in Avadh, came to be known as the talukdars. These feudal chiefs maintained a semi-independent position, realizing revenue from territories owned by them and their position remained more or less unchanged till the annexation of Avadh in 1856, by the British<sup>5</sup>. Shortly afterwards a summary Settlement of the land revenue was carried out in Muhamdi and Mullanpur, but the details of the proceedings are not available as the records were destroyed during the revolt of 1857.

In the years 1858-59 the second summary Settlement was made based on old records of the *qanungos*. The assets of each village were roughly calculated and the government demand was fixed at 50 per cent of the total amount. Little change was effected in proprietary rights except in respect of the estates of Mitauli, Dheuraha and Lakhawara

<sup>1.</sup> Nevill, H.R. : *op. cit.*, (1927), p. 140

<sup>2.</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 140

<sup>3.</sup> Abul Fazl : *Ain-i-Akbari*, Eng. Trans. by H.S. Jarret, (Calcutta, 1949), Vol. II, pp. 187-188

<sup>4.</sup> Moreland, W.H. *op. cit.*, p. 158

<sup>5.</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 152

which had been confiscated for their support to the national movement. The sum assessed as revenue amounted to Rs 4,91,922 but it was later augmented by the assessment of portions of grants settled earlier with lessees and resumed later on. The total amount of land revenue thus aggregated to a sum of Rs 4,93,872.

### First Regular Settlement

The first regular Settlement of the district began in 1864 and was completed by April, 1884. The delay was caused by the fact that the original assessments, which had been completed hurriedly in 1872 required considerable revision, and this process lasted till 1878. The assessment was, as usual, preceded by a revenue survey, simultaneously with which the field survey by the settlement officer was carried on. The actual assessment began in 1867-68 when the rental estimate of the pargana Aurangabad was drawn. During the next two years, the assessment of the parganas of Pasgawan, Kasta, Paila, Sikandrabad and the portion of Kheri, then known as Basara, was completed. No rent-rates were formed at the time of the assessment but the rental of each village was calculated from the information locally derived. Different systems of assessment were adopted in the parganas in which cash and kind rents chiefly prevailed. The assessment in Bauwar and Pasgawan were based on the traditional rates for each village. The settlement officer at first calculated his rates of assessment on the local bigha, but eventually adopted a normal bigha for the whole pargana which resulted in some inequality. For lands which paid grain-rents he merely relied on the statements of *patwaris* and zamindars; but he included considerable areas of fallow and waste in his assessment which, in some cases, unduly swelled the assets. In the other parganas his assessments were based on estimates made in each village, from which he computed the average gross produce per bigha of the several soil areas. This was valued at a uniform rate and a proportion, generally one-half, was treated as the landlord's share. This proved too high, for in many places the actual proportion was one-third or even one-fourth. The produce was converted into cash at rates derived from the wholesale transactions of the past seven years, in the principal bazars. These were again too high, and a year after the assessments were declared, he reduced them all round, to the extent of Rs 7,243, thus allowing a margin ranging from 10 to 16 per cent, on his original estimates.

The next settlement officer, adopted different systems for different parganas, according to the prevailing forms of rent. He first assessed the parganas of Muhamdi, Atwa, Piparia, Magdapur, Haidarabad, Kneri and Karanpur in which, cash-rents generally prevailed. He proceeded to ascertain the rent-rates for each class of soil, irrigated and unirrigated, in each pargana by striking an average of individual fields inspected by himself. He included, in anticipation of rapid development, large areas of waste, and his rates for lands irrigated were applied to all land within reach of irrigation. But the subsequent years proved unfavourable and many proprietors refused to accept the terms offered. Another defect lay in the fact that much inferior land was assumed to be equal to the best, which resulted from the omission to take into account the undoubtedly preponderance of grain rents in the tract in question. A different system was adopted in the parganas of Dhaurahra

and Firozabad where the villages were divided into two circles according as they came under the influence of the Chaukia or of Kauriyala. A set of village rates, a valuation of gross produce during the preceding four years, and a set of circle rates were then prepared. The village rates were then deduced from selected cash rents which were usually paid for special crops only. The rates thus deduced were quite unreliable. The landlord was assigned two-fifths instead of the ordinary one-third of the produce, but the pargana rates were derived from the recorded assets of three large estates, so that the result was inevitably misleading. Lastly, the settlement officer included a large proportion of fallow which he assessed at two-thirds of the ordinary rate. He applied the same system in general to Kukra Mailani. In consequence while he secured an enormous enhancement, only three proprietors accepted the assessment in the parganas. He classified the villages according to healthiness, accessibility, and their proximity to the forests. He based his rates on what he conceived would be the future rents of the pargana, so that they were very much higher than those then prevailing elsewhere; hence the proprietors declined to sign engagements.

The rest of the district, comprising the parganas of Bhur, Nighasan and Srinagar, was assessed by another settlement officer who framed circles within which he constituted classes of villages, each demarcated according to soil areas. He then deduced crop-rates for each circle from which the revenue rates were evolved. He also took retail prices into account in anticipating a rapid development, and over-estimated irrigation. His ascription of certain principal crops to each soil area, and his deduction of circle rates from a valuation of their average produce were peculiarly his own. These measures caused an enormous increase of revenue, chiefly because of the admitted appropriation of considerably more than half the actual assets, and here again the proprietors generally refused to agree.

The result was a total demand of Rs 11,88,667 or no less than 140 per cent, in excess of that imposed at the summary assessment. But it broke down completely and in 780 villages out of a total of nearly one thousand assessed earlier, the proprietors refused to sign the agreement, while in Paila and Khairigarh the new revenue had not yet been introduced. The situation was serious and prompt action was necessary. Another settlement officer was deputed at the end of 1872. He made a temporary suspension of 25 per cent in the eastern parganas. Elsewhere it was directed that the waste should not be assessed, and that the new demand should be gradually introduced wherever it exceeded the summary assessment by 25 per cent. The assessment of the west central pargana was revised by referring to the rent rolls of the previous seven years. Elsewhere only the actual assessable area was treated and the scale of prices was revised, and was used in making the assessment in place of the retail prices. In eastern parganas the rent-rolls of previous years were taken as the main basis of assessment, and care was taken to separate from the rest those lands in which cash rents were paid for special crops. Paila and Khairigarh were entirely resettled, new circles being formed and circle rates determined from the existing records.

The net result of this revision of assessment was that the final revenue was fixed at Rs 8,02,411 or 73 per cent more than the summary assessment. The revision was completed in 1877 when the total demand of the district was only Rs 7,09,999. The settlement was sanctioned for a period of thirty years from the original date, but much of the advantage of a long term was lost on account of the constant alterations.

### Second Regular Settlement

The second regular Settlement began in 1897 and was completed by 1900. The total cost of the Settlement was Rs 44 per square mile, although this excluded the expenditure on the survey which preceded the Settlement, the total average being Rs 130 per square mile. In the course of the Settlement operations village papers were prepared and the soil classifications were closely scrutinised by the settlement officer and in many cases fresh demarcation was found necessary. Circles were framed topographically as far as the varying conditions of the villages permitted, and standard rates were elicited, a separate scale being determined for high and low caste tenants, while the assumption area was dealt with at high-caste rates. It was considered necessary to make large allowances for the circumstances of individual villages, especially in the less developed tracts; and in grain-rented areas the average recorded grain rental of the village was frequently employed for the valuation of grain-rented land. The village records were found to be fairly accurate. The assessment was made on an area of 7,90,810 acres, somewhat in excess of the average cultivation of the preceding fifteen years, but less considerably than the amount reached in 1892. Of the whole, 52.9 per cent area was held by ordinary tenants on cash rents, 34.8 per cent on grain payments, 1.3 per cent by occupancy tenants, the rest being included in assumption areas. The grain-rented lands were valued at a low rate, not only in anticipation of a fall in prices, but also with the intention of leaving a margin for precariousness. The amount added for *siwai* was considerably less than what might have been expected from the recorded collections as much of the income under this head was rejected as not fairly assessable. A small deduction was made for proprietary cultivation and an amount of Rs 82,881 was allowed for improvements. The net accepted assets were Rs 22,19,870, or Rs 1,82,940 less than the amount recorded for the year of verification, and only a little more than the average collections for the preceding fifteen years.

The proportion taken as revenue was 46.4 per cent, the gross final demand for the ordinarily-settled portion of the district being Rs 10,28,510. The net demand was introduced gradually, the amount for the first five years being Rs 9,80,222, for the second five years Rs 9,97,282, and for the eleventh year Rs 10,01,657. The last represents an enhancement of 21 per cent on the expiring revenue. The settlement was sanctioned for a period of thirty years for the district as a whole, though alterations were made in the length of the term of several parganas in order to secure greater uniformity. This Settlement was to expire on June 30, 1929. The incidence of the final demand on each acre of land cultivated at the time of the Settlement was Rs 1—6—1, lighter than in any part of Avadh.

### Third Regular Settlement

The third regular Settlement in the district commenced in October, 1937, and was completed in October 1940. In 1937 the survey operations were first carried out in the parganas of Pasgawan Muhamdi, Atwa, Piparia, Magdapur and Hidarabad of tahsil Muhamdi, similarly pargana Aurangabad and Kasta of tahsil Lakhimpur were surveyed in 1937-38, while the whole Nighasan tahsil was surveyed and assessed between the years 1939-40. During 1938-39 the assessment work was completed in talisks Muhamdi and Lakhimpur<sup>1</sup>. Out of 1,749 villages in the district 285 were complete and 21 partially re-surveyed<sup>2</sup>. The third Settlement cost the government Rs. 6.88 lakhs or Rs. 258 per square mile excluding government forests.

Apart from state property, two-third of the district was predominantly held by the talukdars. There were also little proprietary cultivations and what is classed as *sir* and *khudkasht* was mostly held by the Brahmanas and other tenants of Aurangabad and the south-west. The under-proprietory and occupancy areas were negligible and about 85 per cent of the holdings area was in the hands of tenants who, since January 1, 1940 had hereditary rights. Between October, 1939 and January, 1940, the tenants of Nighasan tahsil (one-third of the district) rose from the status of tenants at will to hereditary status<sup>3</sup>.

The revenue assessed on the revenue paying area amounted to Rs 12.98 lakhs at this Settlement as against 10.04 lakhs at the last Settlement. The marked difference as compared with the rise in assets was due chiefly to the fall in the ordinary percentage taken as revenue and to the restrictions placed on enhancement of revenue in 1929, which have proved of value to proprietors in this district, the percentage of revenue averaging only 86 per cent as against 46 per cent at the last Settlement.

### LAND REFORMS

A fair adjustment of the strained relations between the landholders and their tenants engaged the attention of the British government, but the reforms made by them as given in the following paragraphs would appear to have been feeble, and at best half-hearted measures when compared to the radical changes made in this context after the attainment of Independence by the country in 1947.

Just after the beginning of the first regular Settlement in 1864, the Oudh Rent Act was passed in 1868, which conferred the right of occupancy on every tenant who had within 30 years before February 13, 1858, been in possession as proprietor of land in a village; the rights being heritable but not transferable. It is important to note that although the Act gave some relief to old dispossessed proprietors, it did not permit accrual of occupancy rights in future. Under this Act the

<sup>1</sup>: *Final Settlement Report of the Kheri District, (Allahabad, 1942)*, pp. 111—;

<sup>2</sup>: *Ibid.*, p. ■

<sup>3</sup>: *Ibid.*, p. 1

under-proprietary rights could be conferred or acquired. In 1880, about 88 per cent of the total cultivated area in Avadh was held by tenants at will who were at the mercy of zamindars and talukdars. The Act was, therefore, amended in 1886.

The Oudh Rent Act 1886 (Act XXII of 1886), placed certain checks on the authority of talukdars by giving tenants security from ejectment at least for a period of seven years and limits were also placed on the enhancement of rent. As the tenancies were not heritable, the Act could not prevent the landholders from demanding *nazrana* (premium) after the expiry of seven years. But provision was also made to lessen the burden of the tenant, and now the landholder could only enhance the rent up to a maximum of  $6\frac{1}{4}$  per cent. It was also provided that on the ejectment of a tenant, the rent of his successors in the tenancy could not exceed the previous rent by more than  $6\frac{1}{4}$  per cent. Under the provisions of the Act, the tenant could also make improvements on his land with the consent of the landholder and, failing that, with the permission of the deputy commissioner of the district. Owing to the desperate condition of tenants in many estates a good deal of discontentment prevailed, resulting in the formation of the *kisan-sabhas* almost everywhere. The main complaints against the landholders were the exaction of exorbitant sums as *nazrana*, rack-renting and unrestrained recourse to ejectment.

The Oudh Rent Act, 1921 (Act IV of 1921) raised the statutory period of tenancy from seven to ten years, and a limit was placed on the enhancement of rent which the landholder could claim at the expiry of the statutory period. A tenant who agreed to enhancement of rent every ten years could continue in the holding for life. Protection was granted to heirs of statutory tenants who were given the right to hold the tenancy for a period of five years, after the death of the tenant, and to claim compensation for improvements, if any, made by him. It was open to the landholder to admit the heirs as statutory tenants after the expiry of five years, but if he failed to exercise the right to eject them within the period of limitation after the expiry of five years, the heirs of the deceased were to be deemed to have been duly admitted as statutory tenants.

The restriction imposed by the Act of 1886 on enhancement of rent up to  $6\frac{1}{4}$  per cent only was, however, removed, and the landholder was entitled to claim fair and equitable rent or enhancement up to 30 per cent. The realization of *nazrana* was declared illegal. The landholders were, however, given the right to increase their *sir* and *khudkashi* and to acquire land already under the cultivation of tenants. But the Act failed to give security to tenants to have undisputed rights of occupation or full protection from illegal exactions. This however, was an important stage in the evolution of the rights of cultivators in Avadh.

In 1937, the first Congress ministry took over the government of the province and passed the U.P. Tenancy Act, 1939 (Act XVI of 1938). The tenants' rights in their holdings were made hereditary, and the fear of enhancement of rent except at the time of Settlement, was largely

set at rest. The tenants were also given the right to make improvements on their land. This security of tenure and fixity of fair rent was provided for tenants throughout the province.

Despite the protection extended to the tenants in the Act, the landholders were still a great impediment to the prosperity of cultivators. Therefore, in 1946, when the Congress resumed office, a committee relating to the abolition of the zamindari system was formed. According to the data collected by the committee, there were in 1945 (1852 *Fasli*), 3,61,668 persons cultivating or otherwise occupying land and the total number of holdings covered an area of 10,80,443 acres. The average size of a *khalsa* was 3 acres but land was most unevenly distributed.

Relevant particulars as on June 30, 1945 are given as below :

Size of holdings (in acres)			Total number of persons occupying land	Total area (in acres)
		.5	25,642	7,494
0.5	to	1	28,875	21,857
1	to	2	41,482	64,670
2	to	3	28,710	78,545
3	to	4	22,840	79,001
4	to	5	17,610	79,448
5	to	6	19,461	78,592
6	to	7	10,871	66,415
7	to	8	7,672	52,346
8	to	9	5,975	50,825
9	to	10	4,595	48,758
10	to	12	6,087	66,991
12	to	14	3,885	50,001
14	to	16	2,594	38,895
16	to	18	1,744	29,582
18	to	20	1,805	25,058
20	to	25	1,778	40,052
Over 25			235	15,985*

\*Report of the United Provinces Zamindari Abolition Committee, Vol.II,(Allahabad, 1948), pp. 84 to 89

### Abolition of the Zamindari System

**Rural**—After the attainment of Independence by the country, the Congress government implemented the recommendations of the U.P. Zamindari Abolition Committee in the shape of the U.P. Zamindari Abolition and Land Reforms Act, 1950 (U.P. Act I of 1951), which was passed to abolish the zamindari system and to replace the multiplicity of tenures existing in this district, as elsewhere, by only three types : the *bhumidhar*, the *sirdar* and the *asami*. Every intermediary whose right, title or interest in any estate was acquired under the provisions of the Act was entitled to receive compensation according to the scale laid down in the Act.

Up to 1973-74, the total amount of compensation assessed was an amount of Rs 1,71,48,015 of which a sum of Rs 47,84,447 had been paid in cash and a sum of Rs 1,23,53,850 in bonds to the intermediaries. Zamindars with comparatively smaller holdings were entitled to receive a rehabilitation grant as well. Up to 1973-74 rehabilitation grant, amounting to Rs 1,49,907 was distributed in cash, and amounting to Rs 57,87,850 in bonds to 5,892 intermediaries.

Under the Act, intermediaries became *bhumidhars* of their *sir* and *khudkasht* lands and groves. Certain other tenure-holders also acquired the same status in land under their cultivation provided they fulfilled certain specified conditions. A *bhumidhar* possesses permanent, heritable and transferable rights in his holding from which he cannot be ejected. Certain other categories of tenants who did not acquire *bhumidhari* rights became *sirdars* of the lands in their cultivation. A *sirdar* has permanent and heritable interest in his holding but he cannot transfer it. He may use his land only for purposes of agriculture, horticulture and animal husbandry. He can, however, acquire *bhumidhari* rights in his holding by paying to the government a sum representing a specified multiple of his annual rent. Certain *bhumidhars* and *sirdars* are entitled to sublet their lands, for example, those employed in the armed forces or disabled persons. An *asami* is a lessee of a *bhumidhar*, a *sirdar* or the *gaon sabha*. He has heritable but not transferable rights and is liable to ejection for void transfers or on the extinction of the rights of the *bhumidhar* or *sirdar* concerned, or for contravention of any other provision of the Act.

In 1973-74 the numbers of tenure-holders and holdings with their total areas were as follows :

Tenure-holders	No. of tenure- holders	No. of holdings	Area (in ha.)
Bhumidhars	1,15,205	1,27,581	1,36,327
Sirdars	3,21,419	3,63,804	3,46,255
Asamis	5,774	6,401	3,756

*Bhumidhars* and *sirdars* have been made jointly and individually responsible for the payment of land revenue to which the entire village is assessed. On July 1, 1952, zamindari was abolished in an area of 4,09,562 ha. and this affected 25,408 intermediaries in the district. The Act also established *gaon-samajs* for the management of lands not comprised in any holding or grove. Forests within the village boundaries, tanks, ponds and fisheries, *hats*, bazars and *melas* and other sources of income were vested in the *gaon-samaj*. Every *gaon-samaj* was a corporate body with all adults in the village as its members and had a land management committee to look after its property according to rules. The function of the *gaon-samaj* are performed through the land management committee.

**Urban**—The U.P. Urban Areas Zamindari Abolition and Land Reforms Act, 1956 (U.P. Act IX of 1957), was enforced in the district in July, 1963, and affected 568 persons. A sum of Rs 1,81,043 was assessed as compensation of which an amount of Rs 76,223 has been paid.

**Collection of Land Revenue**—After the abolition of zamindari system, land revenue is collected directly from the *bhumidhars* and *sirdars* by the government through 162 *aminis* whose work is supervised by 15 *naib-tahsildars* and other higher officers. The net demand of land revenue for 1988 *Fasli* is given below :

Main dues	Total Demand (in Rs)
Land Revenue	66,07,614
Vikas Kar	59,74,526
Irrigation	66,49,781

### The U. P. Bhoojan Yajna Act, 1952

In 1951, Acharya Vinoba Bhave initiated in Uttar Pradesh the *bhoodan* movement with the object of obtaining gifts of land for redistribution among the landless. The State Government, therefore, passed the U.P. Boodan Yajna Act, 1952. According to the land distribution data for the period up to 1974, the total land received was 2,657 ha. which has been distributed among the landless people of the district.

### Consolidation of Holdings

The U.P. Consolidation of Holdings Act, 1953 (Act V of 1954) provides for the consolidation of scattered and small holdings. It was enforced in the district in March, 1961. The operations first commenced in 610 villages of tahsil Muhindi which covered an area of 1,29,664 ha. Consolidation proceedings were next started on September 11, 1965, in 582 villages, covering an area of 1,62,261 ha. of tahsil

Lakhimpur. The work started in tahsil Nighasan on January 1, 1972, in 252 villages, covering an area of 4,767 ha. The consolidation work in 610 villages covering an area of 1,29,664 ha. was completed in tahsil Muhamdi while in tahsil Lakhimpur an area of 71,116 ha. was consolidated in 363 villages.

The proceedings were carried out under the supervision of settlement officer (consolidation), assisted by 6 consolidation officers, 23 assistant consolidation officers, 64 consolidators and 166 *lekhpals*.

### **Imposition of Ceiling on Land Holdings**

The U.P. Agricultural Income-tax Act, 1948, was passed to tax agricultural income in excess of Rs 4,260 per annum. The tax was not payable by a landholder, if he did not cultivate more than 12.140 ha. of land. This Act was replaced by the U.P. Large Land Holdings Tax Act, 1957, which imposed a tax on all land holdings the annual value of which exceeded Rs 8,600. A landholder who did not cultivate more than 12.140 ha. of land was exempted from the payment of the tax under this Act also. The tax was levied on a graduated scale so that the larger the holding the greater the incidence of the tax.

As a step towards social and economic justice by way of providing land to the landless and the agricultural labourers and distributing the land more equitably, the Uttar Pradesh Imposition of Ceiling on Land Holdings Act, 1960, Act I of 1961 was passed. It was amended later in 1972 and enforced in the district on June 8, 1973. It replaced the U.P. Large Land Holdings Tax Act, 1957. Under this Act the maximum area of a holding was fixed at 16.19 ha. of fair quality land. If, however, the number of members of the landholder's family was more than five, he was allowed to retain, for each additional number, an area of 3.25 ha. of land, subject to a maximum of 9.72 ha. of such additional area. All the surplus land held by a tenure-holder in excess of the ceiling area was vested in the State Government, the tenure-holders being entitled to receive compensation. The number of landholders affected by the provisions of the Act was 1,778 and an area of 11,660 ha. of land was declared surplus. No compensation has been paid so far in this connection.

### **ADMINISTRATION OF TAXES OTHER THAN LAND REVENUE**

In this district as elsewhere in the State, the other main sources of revenue include Central and State taxes.

#### **Central Taxes**

The Central Government taxes include excise duties, income-tax and estate duties.

**Central Excise**—For purposes of Central excise the district falls under the jurisdiction of the superintendent of Central excise, Sitapur.

For administration of the Central excise four inspectors are posted in the district. The amounts of excise duty realised from the chief commodities in 1973-74 are given below :

Commodity	Excise revenue (in Rs)
Khanda sugar	16,89,910
V. P. Sugar	5,17,55,804
Tobacco	61,506
Confectionary	8,72,978

The excise revenue collected in the district from 1969-70 to 1973-74 was as under:

Year	Amount (in Rs)
1969-70	61,07,165
1970-71	8,71,60,927
1971-72	4,56,76,846
1972-73	4,15,04,219
1973-74	5,91,29,120

### Income-Tax

This is one of the most important taxes of the Central Government. For purposes of the collection of the tax, the district falls within the administrative control of the income-tax officer, Kheri.

The following statement shows the number of assessees and the amounts collected from them as income -tax between the year 1968-69 to 1973-74 :

Year	No. of assessees	Amount of tax (in thousands of rupees)
1968-69	1,998	991
1969-70	1,819	1,377
1970-71	1,935	1,495
1971-72	1,945	1,423
1972-73	9,419	1,812
1973-74	2,190	1,423

**Wealth-tax and Gift-tax**—The taxes imposed under the provision of the Wealth Tax Act, 1957, and the Gift Tax Act, 1958, are also collected by the income-tax department. The following statement gives the number of assessees and the amount of wealth-tax and gift-tax collected between 1968-69 to 1973-74. No amount has been realised under the Expenditure Tax Act, 1958 during this period :

Year	Wealth-tax		Gift-tax	
	No. of assessee	Amount (in thousand)	No. of assessee	Amount (in thousand)
1968-69	52	83	24	7
1969-70	78	47	39	12
1970-71	92	47	28	10
1971-72	92	69	27	11
1972-73	101	170	52	18
1973-74	82	114	70	89

**Estate Duty**—Estate duty is levied, under the provisions of the Estate Duty Act, 1958, on the property left by a deceased person. District Kheri falls under the estate duty circle, Lucknow, which is under the charge of an assistant controller.

The following statement shows the number of assessees and amounts of estate duty collected from 1969-70 to 1973-74:

Year	Below rupees one lakh		Over rupees one lakh		Total	
	No. of assessee	Amount (in Rs)	No. of assessee	Amount (in Rs)	No. of assessee	Amount (in Rs)
1969-70	2	1,497	2	48,024	4	44,521
1970-71	1	1,157	2	5,083	3	6,190
1971-72	2	1,899	2	2,51,700	4	2,53,399
1972-73	6	8,887	4	72,770	10	76,157
1973-74	8	168	—	—	8	168

### State Taxes

Excise, sales tax, stamps and registration, motor vehicles, entertainment, etc., are other sources of revenue to the State Government.

**Excise**—The U.P. Excise Act, 1910, was enforced in the district the same year. It regulated the movement, manufacture, sale, export and possession of intoxicating liquors and drugs and the collection of excise revenue derived from duties, taxes and fines.

For purposes of excise administration the district falls in the range of the assistant excise commissioner, Bareilly range. A deputy collector works as the district excise officer. The district is divided into four excise circles. Circle I comprises tahsil Lakhimpur, circle II Muhamdi and circle III and IV comprise Nighasan and Palia respectively.

**Liquor**—Liquor is supplied to the contractors of 59 shops in the district by the bonded ware houses located at each tahsil headquarters.

**Opium**—Opium is consumed by addicts and is also used for medicinal purposes. In the past it was also smoked in the forms of *chandu* and *madak*, but now smoking of opium is an offence punishable under the U.P. Opium Smoking Act, 1934. The open sale of opium has been prohibited in the State since April, 1959. Its sale was permissible only to those who held a certificate from the civil surgeon of the district. In 1973-74 there was no registered addict in the district. Since 1960, there is complete ban on the sale of opium in the district.

**Hemp Drugs**—Hemp drugs known as charas, ganja and bhang constituted items of excise revenue in the past. Drugs like ganja and charas are consumed in rare cases and their sale is now prohibited. Licenses to open only bhang and teddy shops are auctioned. In 1973-74, there were sixteen shops licensed to sell drugs in this district. Of these five shops are located in tahsil Lakhimpur, ten in Muhamdi and one in Nighasan.

The following statement shows the consumption of bhang in the district from 1965-66 to 1973-74 :

Year	Consumption of bhang (in kg.)
1965-66	5,297
1966-67	7,014
1967-68	5,721
1968-69	6,001
1969-70	6,385
1970-71	6,345
1971-72	5,317
1972-73	5,540
1973-74	5,885

**Excise Revenue**—The excise revenue from 1965-66 to 1978-74 has been given in the following statement :

Years	(In Rs)		
	Liquor	Bhang	Tari
1965-66	14,45,060	89,162	64,700
1966-67	29,52,441	50,227	66,700
1967-68	36,03,884	67,768	82,600
1968-69	42,48,416	58,264	1,22,500
1969-70	49,15,008	55,240	1,59,500
1970-71	46,15,845	59,558	1,27,000
1971-72	47,33,684	55,726	1,27,000
1972-73	25,10,564	57,208	1,24,000
1973-74	28,69,674	55,180	1,95,500

### Sales Tax

Sales tax is levied under the U.P. Sales Tax Act, 1948, and also under the Central Sales Tax Act, 1957. The former has been amended from time to time to make certain changes in the limits of taxable turnover. Cloth, sugar and tobacco have been exempted from taxation. For purposes of administration of this Act, a sales tax officer has been appointed at Lakhimpur Kheri.

The number of assessees and the amount collected as sales tax in respect of important commodities in 1978-74 are given in the following statement :

Commodity	No. of assessees	Amount of tax (in Rs)
Food-grains	209	3,82,692
Bricks	93	7,05,290
Kirana	852	4,00,405
Ornaments	70	1,42,879
General merchandise	94	2,10,000
Brassware	66	1,51,000
Iron and steel	68	—
Sweatmeats	123	—
Exciseable goods	26	15,520
Oil-seeds	—	3,46,900

The following statement shows total amount of tax collected in the district from 1967-68 to 1973-74 :

Year	Amount (in Rs)
1967-68	82,84,024
1968-69	89,06,032
1969-70	84,51,014
1970-71	85,08,453
1971-72	40,54,857
1972-73	50,59,086
1973-74	66,98,910

### Stamps and Registration

Under the Indian Stamps Act, 1899, stamps are classified as judicial and non-judicial. The former are affixed where court fee is to be paid and the latter on bills of exchange, receipts involving a sum of Rs 20 or more and documents in respect of which stamp duty is payable. Income from this source includes fines and penalties realised under the Act.

The receipts under this head during the last five years ending with 1974-75 were as follows :

Year	Sale (in Rs)	
	Judicial	Non-Judicial
1970-71	8,85,520	10,88,959
1971-72	8,87,048	12,98,880
1972-73	8,87,092	11,15,201
1973-74	4,98,828	18,77,849
1974-75	2,69,778	19,76,004

Documents such as instruments of gifts, sale or lease of immovable property, instruments relating to shares in a joint stock company and wills have to be registered under the Indian Registration Act, 1908. The additional district magistrate, revenue and finance, is also the district registrar of the district. Registration is done at the headquarters of each tahsil where a sub-registrar has been provided for the purpose.

The following statement shows the income and expenditure on the establishment during the five years ending with 1973-74 :

Year	Income (in Rs)	Expendi- ture (in Rs)	Total No. of docu- ments registered
1969-70	3,07,286	40,742	11,881
1970-71	3,83,302	40,559	9,458
1971-72	3,92,185	41,748	10,589
1972-73	2,93,482	41,130	8,587
1973-74	4,46,988	53,444	11,402

### Tax on Motor Vehicles

The motor vehicles in the district are taxed under the U.P. Motor Vehicles Taxation Act, 1935 (Act V of 1935), the U.P. Goods Tax Act, 1964 and the U.P. Passenger Tax Act, 1962. The regional transport officer, Lucknow, with headquarters at Lucknow, is in charge of the work in this district also. In 1974 a sum of Rs 1,25,92,777 was collected as road tax under the U.P. Motor Vehicles Taxation Act, 1935 in the Lucknow region.

Under the provisions of the U.P. Motorgadi (Yatri-Kar) Adhiniyam, 1962, a tax was imposed on passengers travelling in public or private motor vehicles plying on hire since October, 1962. The following statement shows the amount of tax collection in the Lucknow region from 1971-72 to 1974-75 :

Year	Amount (in Rs)
1971-72	24,25,815
1972-73	24,92,627
1973-74	26,15,518
1974-75	29,40,632

The Motorgadi (Mal-Kar) Adhiniyam, 1964, provided for the levy of a tax on goods carried by motor vehicles. It was enforced in the district on November 16, 1964. The following statement shows the amount of tax collected under it in the Lucknow region from 1966-67 to 1974-75 :

Year	Amount (in Rs)
1966-67	21,68,844
1967-68	28,84,788
1968-69	25,98,019
1969-70	28,81,868
1970-71	32,76,239
1971-72	30,92,294
1972-73	32,41,992
1973-74	33,99,110
1974-75	30,98,045

### Entertainment Tax

Entertainment tax is realised from entertainments provided by organisations like cinema, circuses and *nautankis* (indigenous open air theatrical performances). One of the deputy collectors in the district performs the duties of the entertainment tax officer in this district. The tax is levied under the provisions of the U.P. Entertainment and Betting Tax Act, 1987. An entertainment tax inspector has also been appointed in the district. There are five permanent cinema houses in the district : two at Kheri, two at Gola Gokarannath and one at Palia. The following statement shows the amount of tax collected between the years 1969-70 to 1973-74 :

Year	Amount (in Rs)
1969-70	5,08,045
1970-71	7,68,859
1971-72	8,56,812
1972-73	8,31,484
1973-74	10,16,908

## CHAPTER XII

### LAW AND ORDER AND JUSTICE

#### LAW AND ORDER

The present district was part of the subah of Avadh of the Mughal empire under which the responsibility for maintaining law and order rested with the *faujdar* or commandant of the district or sirkar. Although there is no detailed record of the functions and powers of the *faujdar* in the sirkar or of the *shiqdar* in the pargana, we have enough evidence to enable us to form an approximate estimate of the scope of their duties. The *Ain-i-faujdar* (in *Ain-i-Akbari*) is a sort of summary of instructions which were issued by the government to him at the time of his appointment<sup>1</sup>, and the duties enjoined on him, in respect of the three branches of administration viz. revenue, police and army. His main function was to guard the area of his sirkar. The police administration then prevalent was divided into the district, the village and the urban police administrations.

We have ample and unmistakable evidence of the *faujdar's* duty in connection with the policing of the country. The *Mirat-i-Ahmadi* gives a detailed account of a network of *thanas* (police-stations) covering the parganas, which were in the charge of subordinate *faujdars* or *thanadars* under the control and authority of the *Faujdar-i-sirkar*<sup>2</sup>.

Though it is difficult to differentiate clearly between the duties of various officials, it would seem that the *shiqdar* had charge of the local police and general administration<sup>3</sup>. Besides the *faujdar*, the *qazi* and the *kotwal*<sup>4</sup> were in charge of justice and the religious department in the district. The *kotwal* was appointed for maintaining peace, arresting criminals and recovering stolen property. He had sometimes to make the loss good if he failed to trace the stolen property and the cases came to the notice of the higher authorities. For the maintenance of his own staff of chowkidars and peons, he was paid a monthly sum. In his absence his duties were performed by the collector of revenue. With the decline of the Mughal empire, the province of Avadh became independent in 1765 under nawab Shuja-ud-daulah.

The district passed into the hands of the British in 1856 with the annexation of Avadh and they brought into existence a force of regular constabulary maintained on a provincial basis. This force was previously known as military police. The people of the region were generally peaceful and there was no serious problem of law and order till the beginning of twentieth century, the bulk of the crime consisting of thefts.

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<sup>1.</sup> Saran, P: *Provincial Government of the Mughals*, p. 208

<sup>2.</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 209

<sup>3.</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 210

<sup>4.</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 211

More recently the police has had to face the menace of dacoits, as a number of their organised gangs commenced their operations in the district. Many of these gangs have been liquidated and their members have been mostly rounded up, but the number of crimes against life and property have shown a tendency towards increase. The motives for murders are mostly disputes over land or sex. The number of certain important cognizable offences committed in the district during the years 1971 to 1973 along with the result of the trials is given in the following statement :

Year		Type of crime							
		Mur- der	Da- coity	Rob- bery	Riot	Theft	House- break- ing	Kid- naping	Sex- crime
1971	Reported	86	145	148	180	1,724	820	68	19
	Convicted	23	5	7	12	78	88	11	7
	Acquitted	81	18	5	6	53	81	10	6
	Compounded	—	—	—	5	—	—	—	—
1972	Reported	72	144	181	157	1,572	755	46	28
	Convicted	22	7	8	18	57	26	5	1
	Acquitted	16	6	6	11	81	20	16	5
	Compounded	—	—	—	10	—	—	—	—
1973	Reported	81	115	116	156	1,825	645	68	29
	Convicted	14	27	8	11	105	64	7	2
	Acquitted	18	82	14	12	101	46	5	8
	Compounded	—	—	—	84	—	—	—	—

### Organisation of Police

During the Mughal and the Nawabi rule, the army, besides protecting the country from foreign invasions, was also required to quell internal disturbances and keep the peace. But with the advent of the British, James Thomason, the first deputy commissioner of the new district took up the work of the reorganisation and establishment of tahsils and police-stations. At first the tahsildars were made responsible for the maintenance of an adequate police force but this system was given up in favour of the experience gained in organising police in the province of Sind. Subsequently a commission was appointed in 1860 to give its recommendations about the organisation of the police in the country. Its recommendations resulted in the enactment of the Police Act of 1861.

### Police-stations

In 1874, there were seven police-stations in the district viz. Muhamdi, Gola, Bhira, Lakhimpur, Dhaurahra, Singahi and Mitauli and the average area covered by each was no less than 247 square miles. If, however, the forests were excluded the area fell to 200 square miles. In 1904, new police-stations were established at Pasgawan, Nimgaon, Phul Behar, Palia and Isanagar and the old police-station at Singahi was transferred to the tahsil headquarters at Nighasan.

The district police organisation was under the charge of a district superintendent of police. The regular police force, before 1906, comprised of a visiting inspector and a reserve inspector, 46 subinspectors

89 head constables and 256 constables. In addition there were also 23 chowkidars of the municipal police, 21 of the town police, 1780 personnel of the rural police and 82 of the road police. In 1907 the municipal police was provincialised and amalgamated into the regular police force.

In 1911, the number of subinspectors in the district rose to 43, of head constables to 45 and of constables to 310. The number of personnel in the town police was 10. In 1928, the number of subinspectors was 42, of head constables 31 and of Naiks 20. In addition there were 815 constables. In 1932 there were 41 inspectors, 88 head constables, 20 Naiks and 338 constables in the district. In 1957, the superintendent of police was assisted by a deputy superintendent, and by a subordinate police staff consisting of 40 subinspectors, 76 head constables and 484 constables. In addition, there were 981 village chowkidars.

The district is a part of the police range, Lucknow, which is under the charge of a deputy inspector general of police, with headquarters at Lucknow. He directs and controls the superintendent of police, Kheri, and co-ordinates police activities in his range.

### Civil Police

The police force in the district in 1974 was under the control of a superintendent of police who is assisted by 8 deputy superintendents. The civil force of the district consists of 2 inspectors, 55 subinspectors, 98 head constables and 649 constables.

For the maintenance of law and order the district is divided into three circles of Kotwali (located at the headquarters of the district) Gola and Palia, each under the charge of a deputy superintendent of police.

The following statement gives the description of police circles and the names of the police-stations and police out-posts under them :

Police circles	Police-stations	Police out-posts
Kotwali	Kotwali	Misran Sankata Devi Sharda Nagar
	Pardhan Nimgaon Kheri	Kheri Oel
Gola	Isanagar Dhaurahra Gola Mitauli Haidarabad Muhamdi Pasgawan Maigalganj	Dhaurahra Gola  Muhamdi Unchaulia
Palia	Palia  Bhira Mailani Nighasan Singahi Phul Behar	Palia Sampurannagar  Singahi

### **Prosecution Unit**

The prosecution staff in 1978 comprised of a public prosecutor, and 7 assistant public prosecutors under the superintendent of police. Now this unit is directly under the district magistrate.

### **Village Police**

The institution of village chowkidar, who forms the lowest rung of police organisation, is very old. There was a village chowkidar in each village to assist the village headman in maintaining law and order and guarding crops and property. In 1904, there were 1780 village chowkidars, their number decreasing to 1726 in 1911, to 990 in 1928 and to 884 in 1932. In 1973 the number of village chowkidars in the district was 912.

Before the advent of British rule in the district, the village chowkidars were given jagirs or plots of rent-free land, while it was not uncommon to find village chowkidars paid in kind. Under the North-Western Provinces Village and Road Police Act, 1878, the district magistrate was made the appointing and dismissing authority of the village chowkidars. The actual control and supervision over them, however, rested with the superintendent of police, an arrangement that still continues. They are now attached to the police-stations and paid by the government. Their main duty is to report the occurrence of important crimes and other incidents in their areas. They also act as process-servers for the *ngaya* panchayats for which they are paid additional but small sums.

### **Prantiya Vikas Dal**

This organisation was originally setup in the district after independence as the Prantiya Rakshak Dal. Initially a paid staff was provisionally selected in the district in 1947 and the approved candidates received training at Lucknow and Kanpur. On return, they organised camps to recruit and impart training to group and section leaders. The Prantiya Rakshak Dal camps were quite popular and there were about 18,000 unpaid volunteers in this organisation. The organisation went into action in the 'grow more food' campaign and about 8,000 acres of forest in Rahimabad in this district was converted into agricultural land. In 1954, the physical culture department was merged with this organisation and it was also entrusted with the work of physical training and development. The Prantiya Rakshak Dal was reorganised in 1957 and it was entrusted with the work of youth programmes and physical training and development. In 1971, it was further reorganised and renamed as Prantiya Vikas Dal.

### **Village Defence Societies**

The village defence societies are purely non-official organisations setup to give protection, especially against dacoits. The members were trained to stand up against undesirable elements in society in defence of life and property. There were 657 such societies in the district in 1978.

### Jail and Lock-ups

The district jail was originally located at Muhamdi and was destroyed with the rest of the civil buildings during the first freedom struggle of 1857. After annexation, temporary accommodation was provided at Muhamdi in the police lock-up, which was found to be far too small for the purpose. In 1864, a new jail was erected at Lakhimpur. There is a full-time superintendent of district jail assisted by a jailor and other subordinate staff. The jail hospital is looked after by a whole-time assistant medical officer, the chief medical officer being in over-all charge of the institution. The inspector general of prisons, Uttar Pradesh is the head of this department. The jail has the capacity of accommodating 407 prisoners, its yearly average population from 1969 to 1978 was as follows :

Year	Convicts	Undertrials
1969	125	475
1970	126	477
1971	119	491
1972	181	614
1978	129	686

### Welfare of Prisoners

Convicts and prisoners undertrial were formerly divided into three categories 'A', 'B' and 'C' but since 1948, they are classified only as 'superior' or 'ordinary' prisoners.

The basic treatment of convicts and prisoners undertrial has improved considerably after independence. They now get regular wages for the work they do in the jail, apart from an allowance from relatives for personal needs. Recreational programmes like indoor and out-door games are arranged from time to time. They are also provided with newspapers, books and periodicals from the jail library.

### Revising Board

For periodical review of cases of all the convicts sentenced to terms of imprisonment of three years or more, there is a revising board at Lucknow. It recommends premature releases and releases on probation in cases of well-behaved convicts.

### Official Visitors

The ex officio visitors of the jail are the district magistrate and the district and sessions judge.

### **Non-official Visitors**

The State Government also appoints non-official visitors of the jail from amongst prominent citizens of the district, who are authorised to write inspection notes in their own handwriting.

Their term of office is usually two years. All the local members of the Central and State legislatures, members of the standing committee of the State legislature on jails, chairman of the central committee of the U.P. Apradh Nirodhak Samiti and secretary of the district unit of the samiti, chairman, municipal board, and Adhyaksh, Zila Parishad, are non-official visitors of the jail. They constitute the board of visitors, which visits the jail twice a year, on dates fixed by the deputy commissioner in consultation with the members of the board.

### **Lock-ups**

A lock-up for the separate detention for men and women is located in the premises of the collectorate and another in the premises of the sessions courts, for custody of prisoners brought from the jail to courts for trial and persons sentenced to imprisonment by the courts before they are taken to the district jail at the end of the day. They are supervised by the public prosecutor. There are lock-ups at each police-stations under the charge of the station officer concerned.

### **Probation**

The probation scheme was introduced in the district in 1960 under the U.P. First Offenders' Probation Act, 1938, when a probation officer was posted in the district. The probation officer works under the administrative control of the Nideshak, Harijan and Samaj Kalyan Vibhag, U.P. and of the district magistrate in his day to day work. He supervises the activities and conduct of those released on probation, ensures that they observe the conditions of the bonds executed by them, makes periodical reports to the courts concerned about them, and, in general, assists and befriends them, trying, if necessary, to find them suitable jobs. The Act provides for the release on probation of first offenders under the age of 24 years. From the date of inception of the scheme 461 probationers have been effectively supervised. In 1974, there were 84 probationers and 5 of them completed their probation period satisfactorily. The number of domiciliary visits by the probation officer during 1974 was 88 and the number of visits received by him from juvenile offenders was 300.

### **JUSTICE**

### **Early History.**

The history of the judiciary of the district is really the history of the judicial system prevailing in Avadh before the annexation in 1856. Under the nawabs of Avadh, the judicial system was based on the Muslim law. The king was the ultimate head of the judiciary, but the powers of the highest court of appeal were vested in the Mujtahid-ul-Asr who

was the highest court of civil jurisdiction as well as the highest court for settlement of religious causes. The court was presided over by the chief Shia priest. The highest trial court, the Adalat-ul-Alia, was situated at Lucknow and was presided over by the Munsif-ud-daula. There were separate courts for civil cases presided over by the Musahib-us-sultan and a court for small causes for recovery of small debts. The chief criminal court was presided over by the Kotwal who was the chief magistrate as well as head of the city police.

After the annexation of Avadh, the British proceeded, inter alia, to reorganise the judicial machinery. They set about establishing their own system of administration prevalent in the neighbouring districts already under their control. Accordingly, authority was concentrated in the hands of the commissioner and the deputy commissioner who headed not only revenue and criminal administration but had also the powers to try petty civil cases within their respective jurisdictions till the passage of the Oudh Civil Courts Act in 1879. By this Act, the civil courts were separated from those of the magistrates and revenue officers. Regular courts of *munsifs*, subordinate judges, the district judge and the judicial commissioner were established. Of these the judicial commissioner had the powers of a high court judge. In 1925, the judicial commissioner's court was converted into the Chief Court of Avadh, under the Oudh Courts Act, 1925. Till 1955, there was no full fledged judgeship at Kheri and the district was under the Sitapur judgeship. The district and sessions judge, Sitapur, used to camp at Lakhimpur for brief periods. A court of civil judge, and another of *munsif* functioned in the district. Besides, an additional *munsif's* court also was established as and when occasional increase of work so required.

For the first time a separate judgeship was created in the district in 1955.

### Civil Justice

In 1974-75, the civil court comprised the following courts :

- Court of the district judge
- Court of the 1st additional district judge
- Court of the 2nd additional district judge
- Court of the 3rd additional district judge
- Court of the 4th additional district judge
- Court of the civil judge
- Court of the *munsif*

### Court of the District Judge

The court of district judge has jurisdiction in the entire district with an unlimited pecuniary jurisdiction. The court has also the power to grant probates, succession certificates, and letters of administration. It also has wide powers under the Guardian and Wards Act, 1890, Land Acquisition Act and in suits relating to public and charitable trusts, besides the powers to hear civil appeals and revisions up to a valuation of Rs 20,000.

### Court of the Additional District Judges

These 4 courts exercise territorial jurisdiction in the entire district and have unlimited pecuniary jurisdiction. They have all the powers co-exerciseable by the district judge, except those under section 24 C.P.C.

### Court of the Civil Judge

This court exercises territorial jurisdiction in the entire district and has an unlimited pecuniary jurisdiction, besides the powers of the judge, small causes court, in cases of valuations up to Rs 1,000. The court hears appeals from the judgements and decrees of the *munsif* of a valuation up to Rs 5,000. In certain cases appeals from the judgements of the revenue courts are also heard when they are transferred to this court by the district judge.

### Court of the Munsif

The present *munsif* exercises pecuniary jurisdiction in civil cases up to Rs 2,000 and suits for small civil claims up to Rs 500 and cases under the Rent Control and Eviction Act of valuation up to Rs 1,000. The court also grants succession certificates up to Rs 2,000. It has revisional powers under the U.P. Panchayat Raj Act. The position of the case work in the civil courts in the year 1978 was as under:

Cases	No. of suits
Pending at the beginning of the year	1,520
Instituted during the year	960 (a) Civil suits—799 (b) Criminal references—20 (c) Restored and re-manded—141
Disposed of during the year	780
Pending at the end of the year	1,700

In the same year the number of suits instituted, involving immovable property, was 240 and of those relating to money and movable property, it was 410. Besides there were 149 other suits, including 4 suits relating to mortgages, 25 relating to matrimony, 28 under the Specific Relief Act and 92 others.

The number of suits instituted in 1978, according to valuation was as follows :

Valuation	No. of suits
Not exceeding Rs 100	40
Exceeding Rs 100 but not Rs 1,000	481
Exceeding Rs 1,000 but not Rs 5,000	219
Exceeding Rs 5,000 but not Rs 10,000	88
Exceeding Rs 10,000 but not Rs 20,000	14
Exceeding Rs 20,000 and over	7

Details of the modes of disposal of suits in the year 1978 were as follows :

Manner of disposal	No. of suits
Disposed of after trial	178
Dismissed for default	282
Otherwise decided without trial	88
Decreed <i>ex parte</i>	154
On admission of claims	26
Settled by compromise	112
Total	780

The position of appeals instituted and disposed of during the year 1978 was as follows :

Nature of appeals	Pending	Instituted	Disposed of
Regular civil appeals	17	48	81
Miscellaneous civil appeals	25	89	14
Regular rent appeals	2	8	1
Miscellaneous rent appeals	25	29	4

### Criminal Justice

The district and sessions judge constitutes the chief criminal court of the district. In 1974-75, he was assisted in sessions trials by four additional district judges. As a district and sessions judge he deals with criminal cases triable by the courts of sessions and hears appeals against the judgements and certain orders of the magistrates working in the district.

The district and sessions judge being the principal civil court of original jurisdiction also exercises jurisdiction in matrimonial suits under the Indian Divorce Act, 1869, the Special Marriage Act, 1954, as well as in cases under the Guardian and Wards Act, 1890, the Indian Lunacy Act, 1912, and the Provincial Insolvency Act, 1920. He also exercises jurisdiction under the Hindu Minority and Guardianship Act, 1956, and under the Indian Succession Act for grant of letters of administration as well as grant of succession certificates. Appeals under the Payment of Wages Act, 1986, lie to him.

Some details of criminal case work relating to the more important offences and Acts from 1971 to 1978 are given below :

Nature of offences	No. of cases committed to sessions		
	1971	1972	1973
Criminal conspiracy	1	—	—
Offences affecting life	114	119	109
Hurt	7	15	19
Wrongful restraint and wrongful confinement	2	1	—
Kidnapping, abduction, slavery and forced labour	11	■	5
Rape	22	15	18
Unnatural offences	—	1	1
Theft	1	—	—
Robbery and dacoity	49	153	190
Criminal breach of trust	—	—	8
Receiving of stolen property	1	—	2
Cheating	—	—	5
Mischief	11	11	14
Criminal trespass	—	—	1
Offences relating to documents and trade or property	—	1	—
Offences relating to marriages	1	3	—
Under the Arms Act	■	10	5

*Persons Tried and Sentenced*

Persons tried/sentenced	1971	1972	1973
Tried	716	908	911
Sentenced to death	13	8	4
Life imprisonment	72	88	58
Rigorous imprisonment	94	122	156
Fined only (a) Fined only	1	—	—
(b) Fined and sentenced both	8	17	29
Other punishments	—	4	2

**Separation of Executive from Judiciary**

Partial separation of the judiciary from the executive was brought about in 1962. However, the judicial magistrates worked under the administrative control of the district magistrate for the purposes of law and order duties. As a further step towards the separation of the judiciary from the executives at the magisterial level, all judicial magistrates were transferred to the control of district and sessions judge, Kheri, in September, 1967. This process reached its culmination with the enforcement of the amended Code of Criminal Procedure on April 1, 1974 which ensures complete separation of the judiciary from the executive. The new Code makes some far-reaching changes among others, in the classification, nomenclature and powers of courts and provides for simplifying and speeding up the process of justice, and attempts to give a fair deal to those, generally placed disadvantageously in trials before the criminal courts.

With the enforcement of the above Code the designation of the additional district magistrate (judicial) has been changed as chief judicial magistrate and along with a judicial magistrate posted in the district, he has been placed under the control of the district and sessions judge. This has naturally added to the present strength of the courts under the district and sessions judge. Thus one chief judicial magistrate having territorial jurisdiction in the whole of the district and a judicial magistrate are administering justice under the control of the district and sessions judge, Kheri.

**Nyaya Panchayats**

*Nyaya Panchayats* were constituted under the U.P. Panchayat Raj Act, (Act no. 26) of 1947, passed by the State legislature in 1947. This

Act established panchayat *adalats* in 1949, subsequently called *nyaya* (justice) panchayats. The jurisdiction of a *nyaya* panchayat usually extends over an area of five to ten Gaon Sabhas, depending on the population of the constituent villages. The total number of *nyaya* panchayats in the district was 149 in 1949, which remained unaltered in 1973-74. The tahsilwise break-up of these *nyaya* panchayats is as follows :

Tahsil	No. of <i>nyaya</i> panchayats
Lakhimpur	68
Nighasan	47
Muhamdi	89

The *panchs* (members) of the *nyaya* panchayats are nominated from amongst the elected members of the gaon (village) panchayats by the district magistrate with the assistance of an advisory body. These *panchs* elect from amongst themselves the *sarpanch*, (headman), who is the presiding officer, and a *sahayak* (assistant) *sarpanch*. The *panchs* are honorary workers and hold office for a period of five years. Their term of office can be extended by the State Government. The cases are heard by benches consisting of five *panchs* each and constituted by the *sarpanch* annually. The presence of at least three *panchs*, including a *sarpanch*, at each hearing is essential.

The *nyaya* panchayats are empowered to try cases under the following Acts and sections.

(a) The U.P. Panchayat Raj Act, 1947.

(b) Indian Penal Code, sections relating to petty offences such as public nuisance, trespass, intimidation, threats, theft or misappropriation involving property not exceeding an amount of Rs 50 in value.

(c) Sections 24 and 26 of the Cattle Trespass Act, 1871.

Subsection of section 10 of the U.P. District Board Primary Education Act, 1926 and sections 8, 4, 7 and 18 of the Public Gambling Act, 1867.

The *nyaya* panchayats also try civil suits up to a valuation of Rs 500, and revenue cases if parties concerned agree in writing to such a course. They are not authorised to award sentences of imprisonment and can impose fines only up to hundred rupees. Revision, against their orders lie to the *munisiffs* and the subdivisional magistrates. The

numbers of criminal and civil cases instituted disposed of, and pending in the *nyaya* panchayats from 1972 to 1974 are given below :

Year	Cases pending in the beginning of the year	Cases ins- tituted	Cases dis- posed of
1972	9	567	586
1973	31	19	5
1974	14	210	78

As a result of general elections for the panchayats, the *nyaya* panchayats have been reconstituted from October, 1973.

### Bar Association

The bar association at the district headquarters was started nearly sixty years ago with only a few lawyers and pleaders. This association has a fine and up-to-date library. The membership is open to all legal practitioners. In 1973-1974, it had a membership of 164 advocates.

## CHAPTER XIII

### OTHER DEPARTMENTS

The government departments concerned with general administration, revenue administration, law and order and administration of justice in the district have already been dealt with in chapters X, XI and XII respectively. The organisational setup of other principal government offices in the district is described below :

#### AGRICULTURE DEPARTMENT

The district is under the supervision of the deputy director of agriculture, Lucknow region, with headquarters at Lucknow.

In the district, the district agriculture officer, assisted by one additional district agriculture officer, is in the immediate charge of agricultural programmes, including formulation and implementation of the Five-year Plan schemes. He looks after the execution of all agricultural programmes such as plant protection, extension of cultivation of oil-seeds, jute development and the like. Under him are 16 assistant development officers (agriculture) for supervision of seed stores, distribution of fertilizers, recovery of agricultural dues and agriculture extension activities. There are 27 seed stores in the district, each under the care of an assistant agriculture inspector. There are 2 government farms at Sampurnnagar and Jamunabad, each managed by a superintendent. There are 16 inspectors to promote jute cultivation.

#### Plant Protection

The officer in the charge of plant protection work is stationed at Lakhimpur to disseminate knowledge of, and adopt plant protection measures with the aid of 12 well-equipped field units spread over the district.

#### Horticulture

Horticulture development is undertaken by the superintendent, government gardens, Lucknow, with the assistance of a senior horticulture inspector, a district horticulture inspector, an assistant horticulture inspector, and three gardeners posted in the district. The staff supervises the lay-out of orchards, planting of fruit trees, and offers technical guidance to horticulturists and vegetable-growers.

#### Soil Conservation

A soil conservation scheme is being run in the district under the supervision of a soil conservation officer, who is assisted by 5 inspectors, 25 assistant inspectors and 2 overseers. He works under the guidance of the deputy director of soil conservation, Lucknow.

### Animal Husbandry

The district falls within the jurisdiction of the deputy director animal husbandry, Lucknow region, with headquarters at Lucknow. The district live-stock officer is in the charge of the schemes for the development of live-stock in the district. He has to ensure the implementation of plan schemes, and provision of credit facilities to animal and poultry breeders. He is assisted by a veterinary officer for artificial insemination work. There are 21 veterinary assistant surgeons for control and cure of animal diseases.

### CO-OPERATIVE DEPARTMENT

The department deals with the organisation, registration, supervision and working of the various types of co-operative societies formed in the district, besides attending to administrative and other statutory functions.

An assistant registrar with headquarters at Lakhimpur, assisted by 2 additional district co-operative officers, 7 circle officers, a senior farming inspector and 15 assistant development officers, one in each block, carries out the functions of this department. The regional deputy registrar is stationed at Lucknow.

### EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

The organisational setup of the education department of the district follows a uniform State pattern. It is headed by a district inspector of schools who is responsible for the supervision, control and inspection of educational institutions up to the higher secondary stage. He is assisted by one deputy inspector and a deputy inspectress of schools. The other supervisory staff under the district inspector consists of 19 subdeputy inspectors and 4 assistant inspectresses.

A district Basic education officer has been posted to the district since, 1972, to supervise all educational primary institutions in the district. He also controls the staff of these institutions excluding those serving under the municipal boards.

The Sanskrit *pathshalas* and the Urdu medium primary schools, are respectively, under the overall charge of the assistant inspector, Sanskrit *pathshalas* and the deputy inspector, Urdu medium schools, Lucknow region, both having their headquarters at Lucknow.

The regional offices of the deputy director of education and the inspectress of girls' schools are located at Lucknow.

### FOREST DEPARTMENT

Lakhimpur is the headquarters of a forest circle under a conservator of forests and the district is divided into three forest divisions-North Kheri, South Kheri and Kheri Plantation.

The North Kheri division is in the charge of a deputy conservator of forests with headquarters at Lakhimpur. He is assisted by 11 assistant conservators and 2 subdivisional officers who have their headquarters at Lakhimpur. There are 19 forest rangers and 12 deputy forest rangers, posted in 9 ranges. These ranges are further subdivided into 47 beats, under 41 foresters and 50 forest guards.

The deputy conservator of forests, South Kheri, is assisted by one subdivisional forest officer and 2 assistant conservators. There are 7 forest rangers and 22 deputy forest rangers, posted in the 6 ranges of the division. These ranges are further subdivided into 44 beats, under 30 foresters and 49 forest guards.

Started in 1964, the Kheri plantation division is headed by a divisional forest officer with headquarters at Lakhimpur. He is assisted by 2 assistant conservators, 6 range officers, and 6 deputy rangers. The division is entrusted with the plantation of trees and their protection.

Among the main objects of the department are plantation work to meet the requirements of the local population for timber, firewood and grass, conservation and improvement of the erstwhile zamindari forests, afforestation of the waste lands and planned exploitation of forest wealth. Preservation of wild life has also assumed significant importance now. A wild life warden is posted in the district to look after the preservation of wild life.

#### INDUSTRIES DEPARTMENT

For survey and proper utilisation of industrial resources, a district industries officer is stationed at Lakhimpur and works under the control of the deputy director of industries, Lucknow region. He is the chief promoter of industrial activities in this district and is responsible for the development of both small-scale and large-scale industries. His duties include rendering all possible assistance for the setting up of new industries and the expansion of the existing industries. There is also one inspector of industries who promotes industrial activities in the district. The district has two industrial estates at Rajapur and Gola under the charge of an assistant manager.

#### PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

Lakhimpur is the zonal headquarters of the department and is under the charge of a superintending engineer whose jurisdiction extends to the district of Sitapur also. He is assisted by 8 executive engineers and 12 assistant engineers. The department is responsible for the construction and maintenance of roads, bridges, and buildings of the State Government.

#### IRRIGATION DEPARTMENT

Three branches of the department function in the district and their activities relate to tube-wells, canals and minor irrigation works as below :

### \* Tube-wells

The tube-well division of the department falls under the irrigation works circle, Lucknow, headed by a superintending engineer. At the district level the division is under the charge of an executive engineer stationed at Lakhimpur. The executive engineer is assisted by 8 assistant engineers and 12 junior engineers. The division constructs and maintains the State tube-wells.

### Canals

The district falls in circles VIII and IX of the Sarda Sahayak Pariyojan, each under a superintending engineer, stationed at Sharda-nagar in the district and at Sitapur. Circle VIII comprises 3 divisions, each under an executive engineer, 4 assistant engineers and 16 junior engineers. The circle IX consists of 2 divisions, each under an executive engineer, 4 assistant engineers and 16 junior engineers.

### Minor Irrigation

For the supervision of minor irrigation works an executive engineer is posted at Lucknow. He is assisted by an assistant engineer with headquarters at Lakhimpur and ■ junior engineers (mechanical).



## CHAPTER XIV

### LOCAL SELF-GOVERNMENT

#### HISTORY

The existence of local self-government institutions in the ancient and medieval periods in India has been shown to admit of no doubt. Indeed we owe largely to the elaborate system of local self-government in ancient India the preservation of the integrity, independence and individuality of Hindu culture. The existence of a complete system of local self-government has been shown to offer the only explanation for the very early appearance of great Indian empires in the absence of the modern facilities of communication and, consequently, of direction.

The establishment of local self-governing bodies under the British regime in the urban areas of districts like Kheri was initiated in the year 1869-70 when the Punjab Act XV of 1867 was extended to Avadh. This Act empowered the lieutenant-governor to constitute a nominated or elective municipal committee in any town, the president being elected or appointed, as the lieutenant-governor deemed fit. The municipalities could impose rates or taxes with the sanction of government. Expenditure on police was the first charge on the municipal revenue, and the surplus income could be applied to purposes like drainage, conservancy, dispensaries, education and poor-houses. It was under this Act that a municipality was established at Lakhimpur in 1868.

The N.W.P. and Oudh Municipalities Act, 1873, was passed to assimilate the working of municipal boards in both the provinces in which for quite some time, municipalities, differently constituted had been working. This Act largely repeated the provisions of the N.W.P. Municipal Improvement Act, 1868, which had provided for the appointment by the provincial government of a municipal committee or its election for a term of two years. The number of ex officio members was not to exceed 1/3 of the total membership, the president being appointed or elected as directed by the government.

The N.W.P. and Oudh Municipalities Act, 1883 reduced the number of members appointed to municipalities to 1/4 of the total membership, extended their terms to 3 years, and authorised them to elect their chairman and vice-chairman, but the provincial government could appoint the chairman by a special order. Some of the municipal employes were to be borrowed from the government services, for others the technical and professional qualifications had to be laid down by the government, whose control over the municipalities was to be exercised through the commissioners and district magistrates. The employment of a part of the general police force by the municipalities for watch and ward was made optional. For the rest, the sources of municipal income and the functions of municipalities remained the same.

During the currency of this Act, some improvements like introduction of refunds of octroi in certain cases, the establishment of bonded warehouses and of a provident fund for the municipal employees were effected.

In 1900, a new Municipalities Act came into being, giving increased powers to municipal boards to deal with matters of common interest, legalising new taxes and making provision for the establishment of notified areas.

The U.P. Municipalities Act, 1916 liberalised the municipal constitution, introduced communal representation and relaxed government control over the finances of municipal boards. In other matters, it largely reproduced the provisions of the Act of 1900, and remained the basic Act governing municipal boards even after the attainment of Independence by the country in 1947. After the passage of the Government of India Act, 1935, local self-government became a transferred subject under a minister. New legislation concerning local bodies was introduced to make them wholly elective, the franchise was liberalised, and greater powers and independence were given to them. After the country became independent new legislative measures for the re-organisation of local self-government were put through abolishing nominations and communal representation. Reservation of seats for the Scheduled Castes was retained and the franchise extended to all adults.

The provisions of the Bengal Chowkidari Act, 1856, (Act XX of 1856) enacted to make better provisions for the watch and ward of cities, towns, stations, etc., was extended to Avadh in 1876. In this district there were four places which were administered under this Act, namely Gola, Kheri, Oel and Palia Kalan.

After the passing of the U.P. Town Areas Act, 1914, (Act II of 1914), the places of which its provisions were applied came to be known as town areas. The Act relieved the town area committees of watch and ward duties and made them responsible for arrangements with regard to the basic civic amenities like water-supply, construction and maintenance of roads, street lighting and sanitation.

In the purely rural areas no legal provision for local self-government was made till the passage of the N.W.P. and Oudh Local Rates Act, 1871, which legalised the imposition of certain local rates or cesses, and provided for the establishment of district committees to look after local affairs. Earlier, local needs had led to the formation of a number of local committees, and the coming into existence of a variety of local cesses and contributions. These bodies had, for their sanction, only administrative rules and orders of the government, and sometimes just a semi-voluntary understanding between the officers of the government and the governed.

Under the N.W.P. and Oudh Local Boards Act, 1883 a local board was provided in every tahsil, consisting of 6 to 12 elected members and a number of nominated members, not exceeding 1/4 of the total membership. The elected members were, however, returned by a nominated electorate of 20 to 25 persons in each taluk, so that it was wholly a

mismother to call such members as elected ones. Above the local boards in each district was the district board made up either of the aggregate of the members of the local boards, or of only a few representatives from each. The terms of both the boards were three years,  $\frac{1}{2}$  of the members retiring each year. The local boards could exercise only such powers and have such funds as might be allowed by the district board. The Act permitted the election of the chairman, but the election had to be approved by the government. The result was that the district magistrate everywhere remained the chairman of the district boards.

The district board of Kheri was set up under this Act, and was composed of 18 members of whom four were ex officio members—the district magistrate and the three subdivisional officers. The remaining members were the so-called elected ones.

The U.P. District Boards Act, 1906, replaced the Act of 1888. It abolished the local boards as useless, and somewhat liberalised the finances of the district boards by abolishing some of the reservations and appropriations from the local rates. This Act held the field for fairly long and was replaced by the U.P. District Boards Act, 1922.

Under the District Boards Act, 1922, the boards were to be composed of elected, co-opted and ex officio members. The ex officio member is the elected president of the board. The device of co-opting members was adopted to give some representation to those section's of the population which usually remained unrepresented or inadequately represented in the board, e.g. women. Certain officers of the government like the divisional engineer, the inspector of schools, and the civil surgeon could attend and speak at the boards meetings with the permission of the president, without the right to vote. Seats were reserved for the Scheduled Castes and the Muslims. The term of the district board was fixed at four years. The president was directly elected. The vice-president was elected by the board for a two year term.

The system of co-opting members was later abolished as also the reservation of seats for the Muslims in the board and separate electorates for them.

Elections under this Act were held in Kheri district in April, 1928. In 1925 the number of elected members was raised to 32 and that of co-opted members was reduced to 8. A woman was amongst members co-opted. In 1958, the U.P. Antarim Zila Parishads Act of that year came into force, replacing the Act of 1922, and renaming the district board as Antarim Zila Parishads. The Act of 1958 was replaced by the U.P. Kshettra Samitis and Zila Parishads Adhiniyam, 1961. The district development officer is the chief executive officer of the Zila Parishad.

Kshettra Samitis have been setup in each development block to replace the development block committees. Their term is five years, and the block development officers act as their secretaries. The members of the Samiti elect the president (*pramukh*), a senior and a junior vice-

president (*up-pramukh*), all for five year terms. The Kshettra Samitis, which collectively had 188 members in 1973-74, 16 of them being nominated ones, co-ordinate the work of the Gaon Sabhas within their jurisdiction in the implementation of their planned schemes and programmes.

### Panchayat

The U.P. Village Panchayat Act was passed in 1920 and was superseded only in 1947 when the U.P. Panchayat Raj Act was passed in that year to make the village panchayats effective instruments for the democratisation of the local self-government structure in this province.

Among the local self-government bodies in the district are at present included four municipal boards and four town areas in the urban and semi-urban areas, a Zila Parishad, 15 Kshettra Samitis and 1,167 Gaon panchayats in the rural area.

### MUNICIPAL BOARDS

For purposes of electing members, the area of the municipalities is divided into a number of wards, generally comprising one or more *muhallahs*. All wards usually elect two members each. Some wards, however, return three members each, on the basis of adult franchise.

The members elect a president, the terms of the members and the president being 5 years in each case. This period may, however, be extended by the government on a limited basis. The president is liable to removal after one year of his election if a vote of no-confidence gets passed against him by a majority of the members of the board.

The sources of municipal revenue are taxes, rates, fees, income from municipal property, grants-in-aid and miscellaneous. Among the more important municipal taxes are octroi, terminal tax, terminal toll, tax on houses and lands, water tax, tax on circumstances and property, conservancy taxes, taxes on animals and vehicles, and tolls on roads and ferries.

The main heads of expenditure of municipal boards, are general administration and collection charges, public safety, conservancy, drainage, medical care, public works, education, public health and others.

The obligatory functions of municipal boards are quite numerous, the main among them being the making of reasonable provision for lighting, watering and cleaning of public streets, regulation of offensive trades and callings, construction and maintenance of streets, culverts, markets, slaughter houses, privies, drains, drainage and sewerage works and water-supply, vaccination, maintenance of hospitals, dispensaries, maternity centres, veterinary hospitals, primary education, and registration of births and deaths. The list of the discretionary functions of the municipal boards is also fairly long. All the municipal boards are governed by the U.P. Municipalities Act, 1916 as amended from time to time.

### Lakhimpur

The municipal board, Lakhimpur, was the first to be constituted in the district and came into being on July 14, 1868, under the Punjab Act XV of 1867. It had twelve members of whom nine were elected, the rest including the chairman, were nominated officials. Later it came to be administered under the North-Western Provinces and Oudh Municipalities Act, 1900 (Act I of 1900). Its affairs were managed by a board of 12 members and a chairman who used to be the deputy commissioner. The income of the board was derived mainly from house tax, toll tax, scavenging tax and a tax on weighmen and brokers. Other sources of income included licence fees, rent, *tehbazari*, sale proceeds and fines.

In 1971, the area included within the limits of the municipality was 4.97 sq. km. with a population of 48,752 persons. It was divided into eight wards of which all, except two wards which elect three members each, return two members each. Thus the number of members is 18.

**Finances**—The receipts and expenditure of the board from 1966-67 to 1975-76 are given in the statement I (a and b) at the end of the chapter.

**Water-supply**—The waterworks of the city was completed in 1961, water being drawn from 8 tube-wells. The capacity for storage of water is 4,50,000 litres. The board employs a waterworks engineer and other technical staff for maintaining an efficient supply of water. The amount spent on this civic amenity was of Rs 90,102 in 1978-74.

**Street Lighting**—The town was electrified in the year 1952 before which oil lamps were used for street lighting. Most of the streets and lanes have electric light arrangements now. There are 958 electric lamp poles and 172 kerosene oil lamps, within the municipal limits. There are 26 electric lamps in parks and other public places. The total amount spent on this item was Rs 47,411 in 1978-74.

**Public Health and Medical Services**—The public health department of the board is looked after by the municipal medical officer of health. The board has on its staff two sanitary inspectors, two vaccinators and 220 sweepers.

**Drainage**—The total length of the pakka and kutchha drains on either side of the roads is 75 km. and 28 km. respectively. A length of about 60 km. of drains is flushed daily.

### Gola Gokarannath

The town of Gola was first administered under the Bengal Chowkidari Act, 1856 (Act XX of 1856) which was replaced by the U.P. Town Areas Act, 1914 (Act II of 1914) under which the town of Gola began to be administered. The town area was upgraded into a notified area in July, 1946 and was upgraded into a municipality in 1949 under the U.P. Municipalities Act, 1916. In 1954, it was classed as a third class municipal board but it improved its position so that in 1978 it was classified as a second class municipal board.

The area under the municipality extended over 10.88 sq. km. and contained a population of 21,677 persons in 1971. This area is divided into 7 wards, of which three elect three members each, three elect two members each and one is a single-member ward. Thus the number of members is 16.

**Finance**—The receipts and expenditure of the board from 1966-67 to 1975-76 are given in statement II (*a* and *b*) at the end of the chapter.

**Water-supply**—The waterworks of the town was completed in 1918, water being drawn from tube-wells. The storage capacity was 2,50,000 litres. The board employs a waterworks engineer and other technical staff for maintaining an efficient supply. Water was supplied for 14 hours daily, the supply per head of the population per day being 118.6 litres, and the total quantity of water supplied during 1973-74 was 90,04,16,250 litres.

The total length of the pipe-lines in the town was 47,995 metres. There were 115 public taps and 784, private ones in 1973-74. The total expenditure incurred on this item amounted to Rs 52,292.89 in 1973-74. The State Government advanced a loan amounting to Rs 8,75,000 to the municipal board to undertake the reorganisation of the water-supply in 1957. Simultaneously an earlier water-supply scheme was under execution at a cost of an amount of Rs 1,12,000. It appears that some of the work under this scheme could not be executed, and it is proposed to apply for the loan of an additional amount to complete the unfinished work as well as to provide for the sinking of three more tube-wells and the erection of an overhead tank with a storage capacity of 2,27,250 litres of water.

**Street Lighting**—The municipality introduced electric lighting in 1957 prior to which kerosene oil lamps were in use. At the close of the financial year 1973-74, there were 800 street electric lamps and 40 kerosene lamps. The total expenditure which the board incurred on street lighting was Rs 24,872 in that year.

**Public Health and Medical Services**—The medical and public health department is manned by a sanitary inspector, a vaccinator, a *safai naik*, three *sahayak safai naiks*, 5 *bhishties* and 90 other sanitary employees. The total expenditure incurred by the board was Rs 1,98,291 in 1973-74.

**Drainage**—A drainage scheme for the town is under construction. Preparation of compost pits and a sewerage scheme have also been taken up.

### Muhamdi

Starting on March 2, 1876, as a town subject to the Bengal Chowkidari Act XX of 1856, Muhamdi was constituted a municipality on April 7, 1879. On April 1, 1904, it was, however, reduced to the status of a notified area under the U.P. Municipalities Act, 1900. The

notified area committee then consisted of three members who were nominated by the government, one of them being the tahsildar of Muhamdi, who was also the president of the committee. In 1922, the number of members of the committee was raised to five, four being elected and the fifth being nominated by the government. The nominated member was the *naib-tahsildar* of Muhamdi tahsil. The president used to be one of the elected members. The income was derived mainly from house and profession taxes, weighing dues, *nazul* and sarai rents, *tehbazari*, cattle-pounds, sale of manure and sweepings and fines. Expenditure was incurred on lighting, repair of roads, vaccination, and general administration.

Muhamdi emerged as a municipal town when a board was constituted in 1957 under U.P. Municipalities Act, 1916. In 1971, the area under the municipality was 7.25 sq. km. and the population 14,908 souls. The town was divided into seven wards of which all except one elected two members of the board. The remaining ward, however, elected three members. Thus the total number of members is 15.

**Finances**—The receipts and expenditure from 1966-67 to 1975-76 are given in statement III (*a* and *b*) at the end of the chapter.

**Street Lighting**—Electricity was supplied to the town in the year 1954 before which oil lamps were used for street lighting. There are 175 electric lamps and 48 kerosene oil lamps within the municipal limits. A sum of Rs 2,000 was spent on this item in 1974-75.

**Public Health and Medical Services**—The board has on its staff a part-time sanitary inspector and a vaccinator to look after public health. A sum of Rs 51,798 was spent on public health and convenience in 1978-74.

**Drainage**—The total length of pakka and kutcha drains on either side of the roads is 760 and 1,871 metres respectively. A length of 760 metres of drains is flushed daily. An amount of Rs 9,614 was spent on this head in 1973-74.

**Education**—Prior to September, 1972, two junior Basic schools, one for boys and the other for girls, besides a girls' senior Basic school, were run by the municipal board. Now these institutions are run under the Basic education officer, Kheri.

### Palia Kalan

Palia Kalan was first established as a town area in 1940 under the U.P. Town Areas Act, 1914 (Act II of 1914). It was administered by a town area committee consisting of 10 members and a chairman. On May 1, 1976, it was converted into a IV class municipality under the U.P. Municipalities Act, 1916. The receipts and expenditure from 1966-67 to 1975-76 of the town area of Palia Kalan are given in statement IV (*a* and *b*) at the end of the chapter. According to the census of 1971, it had 9,771 inhabitants and its jurisdiction extended over an area of 2 sq. km. divided into four wards of which half elect two members each and half elect three member each. Thus the total membership of the municipal board is 10.

Besides, there are 11 nominated members. The chairman and the members of the former town area committee were deemed to be the board and the charge of the municipality was given to the board by the district magistrate. At present it is functioning under the district magistrate.

**Finances**—In 1976-77 the total receipts of the board amounted to Rs 8,20,846 and the expenditure to Rs 2,59,092.

**Waterworks**—A scheme for constructing a waterworks has been sanctioned and necessary constructions have been taken in hand.

**Street Lighting**—Electricity was made available to the town in the year 1966 before which oil lamps were used. In 1976-77 there were 111 lamps for street lighting on which a sum of Rs 5,998 was spent.

**Public Health and Medical Services**—The board has on its staff 25 sweepers and others for sweeping public streets cleansing public drains and in general to ensure the maintenance of sanitary conditions in the town.

**Drainage**—There are 5 km. long pakka drains and 9 km. long kutchha drains which are regularly flushed and cleansed.

#### TOWN AREAS

At present there are four town areas in the district—Singhai Bhadaura, Kheri, Oel Dhakwa and Dhaurahra which are administered under the U.P. Town Areas Act, 1914 (Act II of 1914) by committees, each consisting of a chairman and a number of members, all being directly elected by the residents of the town, on the basis of adult franchise, for a term of four years. The government has power to extend or curtail this term in special circumstances. A member or a chairman may also be removed by the government, before completion of his term for dereliction of duty or abuse of power. The number of members depends on the population of the town. The committees are empowered to levy house tax, property tax, a tax on agricultural land situated within the limits of the town areas etc. Other sources of income are sale proceeds of manure, license fees, fines, water tax, loans and grants given by the government and rents of *nazul* lands, if any.

The main heads under which these bodies spend their funds are general administration, collection charges, water-supply, public health and sanitation, maintenance of public streets and drains and street lighting.

#### Kheri

Kheri was constituted a town area on February 3, 1876. The town had an area of 10.86 sq. km. and a population of 12,006 persons in 1971. It is administered by a town area committee consisting of 10 members and a chairman. The total receipts and expenditure of the committee were Rs 1,18,692 and Rs 1,05,199 respectively in 1975-76,

Electricity was made available to the town in 1950. There are 250 electric street lamps and 40 kerosene oil lamps for street lighting. During the same year an amount of Rs 18,191 was spent on public health and an amount of Rs 17,488 on public works.

The income and expenditure of the town area committee are given in statement V from 1966-67 to 1975-76 at the end of the chapter.

### **Singhai Bhadaura**

It was declared a town area in 1955 under the Town Areas Act, 1914. The town had an area of 1.84 sq. km. and a population of 9,050 persons in 1971. It is administered by a town area committee consisting of 11 members and a chairman who is elected by the public. The total receipt and expenditure of the committee were Rs 1,14,835 and Rs 1,40,482 respectively in 1976-77. The town was electrified in 1966. In 1976-77 there were 91 electric lamps and 62 kerosene lamps for street lighting. The expenditure incurred on this head amounted to Rs 12,484 in 1976-77.

The town had a dispensary managed by the Zila Parishad. The town area committee spends an amount of Rs 500 every year on medicines.

The income and expenditure of the town area committee from 1966-67 to 1975-76 are given in statement VI at the end of the chapter.

### **Oel Dhakwa**

Formerly the combined villages of Oel and Dhakwa were administered under the Sanitation Act as regards the water-supply. They were declared a town area under the United Provinces Town Areas Act, 1914 (Act II of 1914) in 1955.

In 1971, the town had an area of 1.2 sq. km. and a population of 6,155 persons. It is administered by a town area committee, consisting of nine members and a chairman. The total receipts and expenditure of the committee were Rs 2,58,089 and Rs 4,04,165 respectively in 1975-76.

The town was electrified in 1957. In 1975-76 there were 125 electric lamps for the purpose of street lightings. A sum of Rs 8,000 annually is spent on this account.

The income and expenditure of the town area committee from 1966-67 to 1975-76 are given in statement VII at the end of the chapter.

### **Dhaurahra**

Dhaurahra was first declared a town area on February 8, 1876, under Act XX of 1856. It was raised to the status of a municipality

in September, 1881, but was reduced again to the previous status in August, 1889, and the provisions of Act XX were again applied to it in the following month.

The present town is administered under the U.P. Town Areas Act, 1914 (Act II of 1914). The committee has 11 members and a chairman.

According to the census of 1971, the town had an area of 1.4 sq. km. and a population of 9,921 persons. The total receipts and expenditure of the committee were respectively Rs 17,518 and Rs 13,685 in 1978-74, Rs 27,880 and Rs 20,151 in 1974-75 and Rs 54,579 and Rs 52,205 in 1975-76.

The income and expenditure of the town area committee from 1966-67 to 1975-76 are given in statement VIII at the end of the chapter.

### PANCHAYATI RAJ

The Panchayati Raj system which has ushered in a democratic decentralisation of power and responsibilities has, as we have seen, existed in a rudimentary form in the villages of the district since ancient times. The village panchayat, a body of the elders of the village, had administrative and judicial powers and exercised control over the villages. During the Muslim and British governments these panchayats lost the substance of their powers though they continued to survive and to influence to some extent the social life of the village community. It was in 1920 that the British government awoke to the importance of the village panchayats in the scheme of local self-government in India, and made what was at best a half-hearted effort to revive them by passing the U.P. Village Panchayat Act of that year.

The U.P. Panchayat Raj Act, 1947, was passed after the country's Independence. It reorganised the ancient system on the pattern of elected Gaon panchayats and delegated to them adequate powers for the administration of villages.

The community development blocks which were established in the district in 1954 with the introduction of the planning and development programmes had block development committees which were only advisory bodies established to help and advise the staff posted in the blocks for the successful and speedy implementation of the Five-year Plan scheme. The system of local self-government in the district was also reorganised by enacting the U.P. Antarim Zila Parishads Act, 1958, under which Antarim Zila Parishads were established in 1958 to replace the old district boards setup under U.P. District Boards Act, 1922. With the passing of the U.P. Kshetra Samiti and Zila Parishads Adhiniyam 1961, a three-tier organisation of local self-government viz.: the Gaon panchayat at the base, the Kshetra Samitis in the middle and the Zila Parishad at the apex, was introduced in the rural areas of the district,

## Zila Parishad

Under the U.P. Kshettra Samitis and Zila Parishads Adhiniyam, 1961, the total membership of Zila Parishad, Kheri, is 62 which includes 46 elected, 13 co-opted and 3 nominated members. Among the members of the Zila Parishad are all *pramukhs* of the Kshettra Samitis, members of the Central and State legislatures elected from the residents in the district, representatives of the co-operative institutions in the district and presiding officers of all town area committees. Some members are nominated by the government and seats are also reserved for women and the Scheduled Castes.

The functions of the Zila Parishad are very comprehensive and include all those of the former district board, district planning committee or the Antarim Zila Parishad besides co-ordination of the activities of the development blocks, implementation of inter-block schemes and utilisation of the funds allotted by the government for purposes of agriculture, animal husbandry, irrigation, co-operation, village and cottage industries, medical and public health services, education, cultural activities and welfare of children, youth and women as well as of Scheduled Castes and Other Backward Classes. The major sources of income of the Zila Parishad are government grants, taxes levied by it and fees from cattle-pounds. The main items of its expenditure are public works and medical and public health services. Prior to 1972 it dealt also with primary education which has been taken over by the government. The receipts and expenditure of the Zila Parishad from 1966-67 to 1975-76 are given in statement IX (a and b) at the end of the chapter.

**Education**—The Zila Parishad maintains 959 junior Basic schools for boys and 154 for girls, the number of students in them being 1,09,845 and 51,648 respectively. Besides, there are 43 senior Basic schools for boys and 14 for girls with 5,883 and 947 students on roll respectively. There were 8,660 teachers for boys' schools and 573 teachers for girls' schools in 1973-74.

**Public Health and Medical Services**—There are 7 allopathic and 3 Ayurvedic dispensaries under the management of the Zila Parishad. A leper asylum is added by the Parishad. The supervisory staff consists of 7 doctors, 8 compounders, 20 vaccinators and one sanitary inspector.

**Public Works**—The Zila Parishad maintains about 92 km. of metalled and 886 km. of unmetalled roads. Under its supervision a masonry bridge has been constructed in 1974.

## Kshettra Samitis

With the enforcement of the U.P. Kshettra Samitis and Zila Parishads Adhiniyam of 1961, the functions of the erstwhile block development committees devolved upon the newly established Kshettra Samitis of which there were 15 in the district, one for each development block.

A Kshettra Samiti consists of all *pradhans* of the constituent Gaon Sabhas, chairman of town area committee lying within the block limits, representatives of co-operative institutions of the block and members of the Zila Parishad who are elected from the block. All members of the lower houses of the Union and State legislatures whose constituencies include any part of the block and all members of the upper houses of the Union and State legislatures whose places of residence are in the district in which the block is situated and who have chosen to represent the block are ex officio members of the Kshettra Samiti. The members of the Kshettra Samitis may also co-opt certain number of women and the persons belonging to the Scheduled Castes as also the persons interested in planning and development provided they are registered as voters for the legislative assembly from any part of the block.

The Kshettra Samiti is responsible for the formulation and execution of the development plans of the Gaon Sabhas constituting the development block. The main activities of this Samiti are in the sphere of agriculture, horticulture, live-stock and fisheries, construction of minor irrigation works, opening of health, maternity and child welfare centres, prevention and control of epidemics, promotion of cottage and village industries and co-operative institutions. It is particularly responsible for the implementation of inter-village projects in the block area.

### Gaon Panchayats

In 1949 when the U.P. Panchayat Raj Act, 1947, was enforced in the district there were 749 Gaon panchayats. Their number increased with the population and in 1973-74 it rose to 1,167.

A Gaon Sabha is constituted for a village or group of villages with a minimum population of 250 persons and consists of all the adults in the village. The Gaon panchayat which is the executive limb of the Gaon Sabha has a *pradhan* (president) and *up-pradhan* (vice-president) the former and the members of the Gaon panchayats being elected initially by the members of Gaon Sabha for a term of five years, extendable by the government. An *up-pradhan* (vice-president) is elected by the members of the Gaon panchayat for a term of one year. The number of members of the Gaon panchayat is determined in proportion to the population of the Gaon Sabha and generally ranges from 15 to 30.

The Gaon Sabha is intended to constitute the base of an active and well-informed peasant democracy which should not only inter-relate but also initiate all rural development policies and programmes. The functions of the panchayat include, among the others, the construction, repairs, cleaning and lighting of streets, sanitation, prevention of epidemics, upkeep and supervision of forests, waste lands, pastures, buildings, land or other property of the Gaon Sabha, registration of births, deaths and marriages, regulation of markets and fairs, establishment of primary schools, provision of drinking water facilities and welfare of children, youth and women.

For the fulfilment of these objectives the Gaon panchayats largely depend on voluntary contributions and to some extent, on government grants.

The power of village panchayats to levy taxes, rates and fees to augment their resources for fulfilling their role as effective instruments of social change and rural reconstruction at the roots, were extended by an ordinance in 1972 which was replaced by the U. P. Rural Local Self-government Laws Amendment Act, 1973 (U.P. Act, III of 1973) empowering Gaon Sabhas to borrow money from the State Government and financial corporations, scheduled banks, the Uttar Pradesh co-operative bank or the district co-operative bank. The income of the Gaon panchayats is generally too meagre to carry out all the functions entrusted to them. Statement X (*a* and *b*) at the end of the chapter shows the receipts and expenditure of panchayats from 1973-74 to 1975-76.

*Nyaya* panchayats were also constituted under the U.P. Panchayat Raj Act, 1947. They try petty criminal, cases and civil suits of low valuations. The jurisdiction of a *nyaya* panchayat extends to 5 to 10 Gaon Sabhas. It has about 10 to 25 members, called *panchs*, nominated by the district magistrate. The *panchs* elect a *sarpanch* and a *sahayak sarpanch* from amongst themselves, the *sarpanch* being the chairman of the *nyaya* panchayat. The cases are heard by benches of 3 to 5 *panchs* of the *nyaya* panchayat. The term of the benches is one year. There are 149 *nyaya* panchayats in the district, 68 in the Lakhimpur, 47 in Muhamdi, and 39 in the Nighasan tahsil.

Details of the achievement of the panchayats of the district during First, Second and Third Five-year Plans and the years 1968-69 to 1971-72 are given below :

Name of work done	First	Second	Third				
	Five- year Plan	Five- year Plan	Five- year Plan	1968- 69	1969- 70	1970- 71	1971- 72
Construction of kutcha road (in km.)	167	858	681	1,094	1,172	1,275	1,816
Construction of <i>kankar</i> road (in km.)	22	42	83	94.5	—	94.5	—
Construction of culverts (No.)	102	224	842	428	456	483	485
Pavement of by-lanes with <i>kharanja</i> (in km.)	18	65	132	103	195	200	201
Construction of wells for drinking water (No.)	306	691	1,025	1,462	1,375	1,675	1,703
Installation of hand pumps (No.)	698	1,831	4,142	6,713	7,450	7,525	7,553
Construction of panchayat <i>ghars</i> (No.)	101	182	235	301	314	324	325

The following statement shows the amount of tax collected by panchayats during the year between 1969 to 1974 :

Year	Amount (in Rs)
1969-70	41,40,000
1970-71	43,60,000
1971-72	44,35,000
1972-73	2,19,190
1973-74	8,58,000



## STATEMENT I (a)

## Receipts (in rupees), Municipal Board, Lakhimpur

Reference Page No. 186

Year	Municipal rates and taxes	Realisation under Special Act	Revenue derived from municipal property and power apart from taxation	Grants and contributions	Miscellaneous	Other sources	Total receipts
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1966-67	4,81,715	18,664	1,17,013	2,38,622	1,79,187	5,525	10,35,726
1967-68	4,25,208	17,185	1,61,183	2,45,541	51,343	15,245	9,15,655
1968-69	4,91,029	20,265	1,73,146	3,09,715	53,618	12,810	10,60,588
1969-70	4,77,458	28,364	1,93,604	2,82,513	21,149	10,526	10,08,614
1970-71	4,94,951	22,051	1,80,746	3,78,351	19,549	9,165	11,04,813
1971-72	5,78,265	22,892	2,22,756	3,61,936	27,876	11,168	12,24,811
1972-73	5,52,540	18,667	2,20,758	3,12,019	39,152	48,353	11,91,489
1973-74	5,81,579	22,770	1,87,445	2,31,263	1,12,186	5,126	11,40,869
1974-75	7,34,803	28,385	2,06,753	3,90,423	55,245	1,20,661	15,36,270
1975-76	6,58,665	45,045	2,47,663	3,47,076	1,17,358	4,672	14,20,479

## STATEMENT I (b)

Expenditure (in rupees), Municipal Board, Lakhimpur

Reference Page No. 186

Year	General administration and collection charges	Public safety	Public health and convenience	Education	Contributions	Miscellaneous	Other sources	Total expenditure	9
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8		9
1966-67	1,56,474	42,204	4,55,500	1,75,945	750	2,48,438	42,376	11,21,687	
1967-68	75,239	58,786	5,32,877	1,82,071	350	1,05,486	38,095	9,87,854	
1968-69	72,685	55,799	5,60,695	1,88,717	1,201	94,751	1,11,987	10,85,835	
1969-70	60,745	55,314	4,35,983	2,15,183	1,451	1,15,100	1,08,736	9,87,412	
1970-71	80,452	45,009	4,97,457	3,19,999	850	97,314	58,500	10,99,581	
1971-72	81,790	46,891	5,65,367	2,74,017	451	1,72,665	58,867	12,00,048	
1972-73	86,728	72,833	4,28,435	1,63,879	1,050	1,99,699	2,74,405	12,27,029	
1973-74	1,26,837	47,411	7,29,548	12,894	1,101	96,941	75,306	10,90,088	
1974-75	2,01,058	65,303	11,92,863	12,401	8,000	27,422	71,118	15,78,160	
1975-76	1,70,754	55,842	10,27,692	10,828	1,100	66,091	80,648	14,12,955	

## STATEMENT II (a)

Receipts (in rupees), Municipal Board, Gola Gokaramath

Reference Page No. 167

Year	Municipal rates and taxes	Realisation under Spec- ial Act	Revenue derived from municipal property and power apart from taxation	Grants and contributions	Miscella- neous	Other sources	Total receipts
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1966-67	1,68,629	2,985	30,068	31,262	61,262	1,03,922	3,93,128
1967-68	1,33,572	2,080	80,421	79,637	39,624	1,04,058	4,40,292
1968-69	2,04,793	5,529	82,053	52,295	49,348	6,053	4,00,071
1969-70	1,81,343	6,360	60,116	61,427	67,759	1,40,966	5,17,971
1970-71	2,13,678	5,810	97,167	2,66,016	75,487	36,361	6,94,519
1971-72	2,57,027	4,656	75,608	1,23,470	55,844	5,548	5,22,153
1972-73	2,28,711	5,716	52,028	1,50,727	1,26,572	1,21,078	6,79,832
1973-74	2,65,658	5,028	78,915	1,47,932	1,07,965	1,18,881	7,24,274
1974-75	3,04,972	7,528	81,194	327,866	2,60,473	48,280	10,30,318
1975-76	4,40,012	6,337	1,11,439	2,55,776	3,29,851	9,404	11,52,819

## STATEMENT II (b)

## Expenditure (in rupees), Municipal Board, Gola Gokaran Nath

Reference Page No. 187

Year	General administration and collection charges	Public safety	Public health and convenience	Education	Contributions	Miscellaneous	Other sources	Total expenditure
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1966-67	70,875	15,934	1,73,875	29,279	4,657	51,781	16,200	3,02,601
1967-68	72,516	14,544	1,56,603	27,976	6,172	12,259	2,57,122	5,47,192
1968-69	72,214	15,720	1,44,218	30,107	4,626	20,056	57,834	3,44,775
1969-70	66,655	25,946	2,88,573	43,874	4,595	23,787	1,81,291	6,44,721
1970-71	65,959	27,868	1,59,563	72,212	5,201	25,482	4,69,428	8,25,718
1971-72	75,725	20,730	2,35,286	37,380	5,776	45,175	73,829	4,98,850
1972-73	1,02,927	20,740	3,29,057	46,292	5,037	35,042	1,64,965	7,04,060
1973-74	1,21,648	24,872	3,66,872	6,630	5,679	27,967	2,08,932	7,62,100
1974-75	1,65,832	24,265	5,44,463	7,502	10,319	45,396	7,720	8,05,497
1975-76	1,69,067	28,947	3,08,138	7,772	9,967	1,15,590	52,635	6,92,116

**STATEMENT III (a)****Receipts (in rupees). Municipal Board, Muhandi**

Reference Page No. 188

Year	Municipal rates and taxes	Realisation under Special Act	Revenue derived from municipal property and power apart from taxation				Other sources	Total receipts
			2	3	4	5		
1966-67	65,447	—	—	—	37,859	8,612	15,079	1,26,997
1967-68	49,772	—	—	—	24,992	12,901	18,227	1,15,892
1968-69	54,447	—	176	40,133	—	9,041	19,443	1,23,242
1969-70	59,610	—	—	42,229	—	27,388	15,369	1,44,596
1970-71	68,693	—	98	50,607	—	22,051	12,245	1,53,694
1971-72	73,448	—	—	16,300	—	16,036	57,898	1,63,682
1972-73	73,832	—	—	26,300	—	15,449	55,684	1,71,265
1973-74	74,970	—	—	26,133	—	22,573	17,242	1,40,918
1974-75	74,697	—	295	1,39,509	—	46,313	13,337	2,74,152
1975-76	41,881	—	—	57,365	—	51,404	12,064	1,62,714

## STATEMENT III (b)

## Expenditure (in rupees), Municipal Board, Muhamadi

Year	General administration and collection charges						Miscellaneous	Other sources	Total expenditure	Reference Page No. 188
		Public safety	Public health and convenience	Education	Contributions	6				
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9		
1966-67	16,821	9,670	12,415	27,262	575	57,574	41,355		1,64,672	
1967-68	14,967	5,008	12,328	13,584	575	33,235	9,643		89,880	
1968-69	27,062	6,232	32,940	18,223	675	21,285	3,646		1,10,063	
1969-70	29,959	6,387	37,249	21,214	1,050	11,455	42,229		1,49,493	
1970-71	41,254	11,089	58,870	25,838	1,550	8,235	7,540		1,54,371	
1971-72	24,852	2,803	40,890	24,496	—	14,713	31,630		1,38,821	
1972-73	45,043	8,038	66,826	27,891	—	15,963	32,735		1,96,586	
1973-74	37,205	12,824	51,799	—	—	11,652	38,476		1,46,456	
1974-75	86,642	7,958	1,10,292	—	—	5,773	10,176		2,29,841	
1975-76	58,089	15,740	1,11,474	—	—	15,157	13,751		2,14,211	

## STATEMENT IV (a)

*Receipts (in rupees), Town Area Municipal Board, Pahla Kalan*

Reference Page No. 188

Year	Municipal rates and taxes	Realisation under Special Act	Revenue derived from municipal property and power apart from taxation	Grants and contributions	Miscellaneous	Other sources	Total receipts
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1966-67	—	—	—	10,747	7,669	8,920	27,336
1967-68	—	—	—	10,220	12,329	8,286	30,835
1968-69	—	—	—	3,961	10,865	44,055	58,881
1969-70	—	—	—	1,650	7,812	75,154	84,610
1970-71	—	—	5,811	1,558	19,275	89,832	1,16,574
1971-72	—	—	3,431	5,440	14,494	83,603	1,06,968
1972-73	—	—	4,125	5,429	7,250	97,751	1,14,555
1973-74	—	—	9,237	36,237	17,874	88,166	1,51,514
1974-75	—	—	3,395	1,35,976	22,382	1,39,228	3,91,181
1975-76	—	—	3,671	46,124	16,215	2,49,312	3,15,352

## STATEMENT IV (b)

## Expenditure (in rupees), Town Area/Municipal Board, Palia Kalan

Reference Page No. 188

Year	General ad- ministration and collec- tion charges	Public safety	Public health and convenience	Education	Contribu- tions	Miscella- neous	Other sources	Total ex- penditure
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1966-67	4,171	8,250	14,013	—	25	1,071	28,514	51,044
1967-68	5,184	2,100	14,485	—	25	1,638	6,975	30,402
1968-69	9,435	5,218	14,199	—	25	4,634	9,500	43,011
1969-70	20,686	260	19,055	—	25	6,796	24,583	71,855
1970-71	21,269	2,500	18,965	—	25	2,056	4,195	56,012
1971-72	27,275	4,839	29,654	—	25	5,664	40,768	1,08,225
1972-73	30,046	3,221	32,948	—	W	15,620	92,587	1,74,447
1973-74	39,347	4,000	47,117	—	25	5,664	40,768	1,86,921
1974-75	48,340	2,500	63,603	—	25	1,09,898	80,413	3,05,274
1975-76	62,729	8,252	71,002	—	1,500	17,181	1,91,581	3,47,245

## STATEMENT V

*Receipts and Expenditure of Town Area, Kheri*

Reference Page No. 190

Year	Receipt (in rupees)				Expenditure (in rupees)				
	Government grants	Taxes	Other sources	Total receipts	General administration and collection charges	Public health	Public works	Other sources	Total expenditure
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1966-67	15,000	18,741	125	28,866	6,744	1,415	18,742	85	26,986
1967-68	—	14,984	958	15,942	7,868	2,701	1,423	265	12,257
1968-69	20,000	15,956	1,253	37,209	6,734	3,201	22,306	123	32,364
1969-70	5,000	14,479	498	19,917	7,126	4,108	5,724	104	17,062
1970-71	—	24,387	1,395	25,782	9,208	5,025	5,544	74	19,845
1971-72	—	30,946	1,157	32,108	10,305	8,423	5,658	207	24,593
1972-73	—	35,029	2,614	37,643	12,876	7,221	6,422	426	26,945
1973-74	10,000	57,329	2,937	70,266	41,892	5,852	2,613	75	49,932
1974-75	10,000	71,845	3,407	85,252	74,852	2,850	5,175	308	82,685
1975-76	15,000	92,735	5,957	1,13,692	68,461	18,191	17,483	1,064	1,05,199

## STATEMENT VI

*Receipts and Expenditure, Town Area, Singhi Bhadra*

Reference Page No. 190

Year	Receipt (in rupees)			Expenditure (in rupees)					Total expenditure
	Government grants	Taxes	Other sources	Total receipts	General administration and collection charges	Public health	Public works	Other sources	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1966-67	4,075	5,717	8,708	18,500	6,828	6,594	5,106	2,106	20,064
1967-68	1,142	4,995	11,737	17,856	6,556	7,169	5,373	473	17,573
1968-69	—	5,847	7,769	18,116	7,015	6,522	394	434	14,365
1969-70	—	3,690	32,740	36,439	16,377	11,719	321	15,346	43,761
1970-71	—	6,726	44,152	50,878	13,629	12,108	18,170	3,794	42,701
1971-72	—	3,261	9,633	12,894	9,650	800	—	1,214	11,664
1972-73	—	5,988	916	6,854	10,644	—	500	2,255	13,399
1973-74	—	4,180	13,388	17,518	14,170	2,515	—	—	16,685
1974-75	72,894	6,399	47,791	1,27,084	59,156	38,068	12,765	2,398	1,12,387
1975-76	38,192	11,062	72,627	1,21,881	57,013	40,767	3,906	16,060	1,17,746

## STATEMENT VII

*Receipts and Expenditure, Town Area, Oel Dhalawia*

Reference Page No. 190

Year	Receipts (in rupees)				Expenditure (in rupees)				
	Government grants	Taxes	Other sources	Total receipts	General administration and collection charges	Public health	Public works	Other sources	Total expenditure
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1966-67	6,977	49,727	6,243	62,947	14,045	5,715	6,002	—	25,762
1967-68	1,716	52,331	6,358	60,405	19,733	2,104	40,118	521	62,476
1968-69	7,288	30,718	4,731	42,737	21,207	6,829	—	1,031	29,067
1969-70	6,107	48,681	8,056	62,344	21,207	5,052	57,302	2,287	85,848
1970-71	4,981	1,04,940	4,878	1,14,899	25,886	6,228	71,296	41,837	1,45,247
1971-72	7,378	1,15,532	47,544	1,70,454	27,586	5,004	—	9,583	42,173
1972-73	13,602	1,36,972	7,419	1,57,993	35,393	6,249	—	5,826	47,468
1973-74	8,178	1,59,104	8,830	1,76,112	39,180	8,024	—	810	47,814
1974-75	39,913	2,34,862	13,610	2,88,385	83,452	8,085	2,11,128	636	3,08,301
1975-76	56,118	1,83,134	13,842	2,53,089	84,800	77,286	2,40,817	1,262	4,04,165

## STATEMENT VIII

*Receipts and Expenditure, Toten Area, Dhanakra*

Reference Page No. 191

Year	Receipts (in rupees)				Expenditure (in rupees)				
	Government grants	Taxes	Other sources	Total receipts	General administration and collection charges	Public health	Public works	Other sources	Total expenditure
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1966-67	16,300	2,554	15,924	18,478	6,730	—	—	971	7,701
1967-68	—	3,972	5,687	9,659	6,701	160	—	11,453	18,314
1968-69	—	1,749	3,803	5,552	8,701	—	—	856	9,557
1969-70	—	2,468	4,649	7,117	5,166	—	—	1,482	6,598
1970-71	—	4,159	12,068	16,227	12,194	—	—	1,992	14,186
1971-72	—	3,261	9,633	12,894	9,650	200	—	1,214	11,064
1972-73	—	5,988	9,116	15,054	10,644	—	500	2,255	13,399
1973-74	—	4,180	13,388	17,518	14,170	2,515	—	—	16,665
1974-75	10,000	6,741	20,639	27,380	13,512	—	5,845	794	20,151
1975-76	10,000	5,981	48,598	54,579	23,382	—	25,763	3,060	52,205

## STATEMENT IX (a)

## Receipts (in rupees), Zila Parishad, Kheri

Reference Page No. 192

Year	Government grants	Education (including industrial and technical)	Medical and public health	Cattle pounds	Other sources	Total receipts
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1966-67	40,15,302	1,07,413	—	71,942	2,63,883	44,58,540
1967-68	48,84,404	1,52,475	10	79,113	3,44,975	54,60,977
1968-69	48,82,446	1,89,117	3,962	1,32,310	3,26,099	55,83,934
1969-70	63,09,222	1,40,869	4,659	1,36,880	5,75,970	71,67,570
1970-71	63,62,202	1,51,460	6,135	1,07,863	4,64,431	70,92,091
1971-72	1,08,69,361	1,45,493	8,874	81,493	4,47,759	1,15,52,980
1972-73	45,45,745	99,891	15,856	1,12,403	8,70,884	56,94,229
1973-74	9,95,986	—	5,056	87,480	8,12,568	19,00,140
1974-75	—	1,63,627	3,315	1,02,938	10,29,027	12,98,907
1975-76	—	2,44,169	5,799	1,01,283	19,97,760	23,49,011

**STATEMENT IX (b)**  
*Expenditure (in rupees), Zila Parishad, Kheri*

Reference Page No. 192

Year	General ad- ministration and collec- tion of taxes	Education (including industrial and technical)	Medical and public health	Public works	Other sources	Total ex- penditure
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1966-67	1,28,525	36,04,347	1,44,795	6,85,609	1,95,499	47,53,775
1967-68	1,20,227	36,37,056	1,54,208	6,65,390	2,02,040	47,78,921
1968-69	1,51,736	39,08,370	1,89,580	7,38,486	2,01,395	51,89,567
1969-70	1,57,411	51,23,055	1,82,163	13,48,769	2,89,666	71,01,064
1970-71	1,49,059	56,27,009	1,71,876	12,41,651	3,33,470	75,28,065
1971-72	1,75,812	57,24,016	1,59,795	15,50,547	3,52,159	79,62,829
1972-73	1,98,573	53,34,252	1,86,571	99,02,980	10,90,106	1,67,72,482
1973-74	2,21,746	—	1,74,875	1,79,530	4,16,338	19,92,489
1974-75	2,72,267	2,54,123	1,61,598	3,01,806	1,82,340	11,72,129
1975-76	2,87,466	4,13,739	1,57,504	4,42,552	6,41,276	19,42,537

## STATEMENT X (a)

*Receipts (in rupees) of Panchayats*

Reference Page No. 194

Item	1973-74	1974-75	1975-76
1	2	3	4
Taxation	8,58,002	7,53,645	9,20,870
Land management committee	1,45,827	1,03,618	1,16,998
Grants	3,000	17,555	8,524
Others	89,537	40,105	--
Total	10,41,866	9,14,928	10,46,392

## STATEMENT X (b)

*Expenditure (in rupees) of Panchayats*

Reference Page No. 194

Heads	1973-74	1974-75	1975-76
1	2	3	4
Construction work	6,75,500	53,182	5,09,655
General administration	1,20,863	1,00,205	72,726
Others	1,31,822	1,15,110	96,100
Total	9,28,285	2,68,447	6,78,481

## CHAPTER XV

### EDUCATION AND CULTURE

No specific reference to the tract now comprising Kheri district, which was mostly covered with forests, is found in the ancient Sanskrit literature. But owing to the proximity of the region to Naimisharanya in Sitapur district, one of the greatest centres of learning with preceptor Shaunaka as *kulapati* or presiding personality of the place<sup>1</sup>, it may safely be concluded that the inhabitants of this district must have derived educational facilities and advantages of learning from this *ashrama* (hermitage).

Education in those days began at home, followed invariably, for students belonging to the upper strata of society, by admission into an *ashrama*. However, regular studentship, in *ashrama*, began with the initiation ceremony called the *upanayana*<sup>2</sup>. The pupil was allowed to pursue the study of the subjects of his choice, accompanied by special teaching in the *Vedas* and the traditional branches of learning such as *Itihasa-Purana* (history and legend), *vyakarna* (grammar), philology, *chhandashastra* (prosody), *arthashastra* (political economy), *ganita* (mathematics), *jyotish* (astronomy and astrology), *dhramashastra* (law and discipline), *shastravidya* (statecraft and military science) and *Ayurveda* (the science of longevity)<sup>3</sup>.

In ancient times, education was meant for the acquisition of knowledge and spiritual advancement as ends in themselves and not for earning a livelihood. It was imparted with the best of care, free of cost and was not controlled by the State. The individual was the chief concern and centre of this system and the development of character and acquisition of learning in the sacred lore and its application in practical life were its chief aims. The teacher was content with whatever was offered to him by his pupils at the end of their education which ensured that the poorest in society received the benefits of education if endowed with the required mental capabilities. The student was also required to help the teacher in his household and farm work. One of the important features of the system was to create an intimate relationship between the teacher and the taught which was expected to inculcate in the latter the attitudes of obedience, service, austerity and purity of conduct<sup>4</sup>.

In course of time *pathsalas* (schools) emerged, as elsewhere, in this region also. Most of them were attached to temples in which, in addition to the subjects taught ordinarily, (Sanskrit and grammar, the regional languages, astrology, mathematics, etc.) and preparation for priesthood became an important feature for those desirous of taking up that profession<sup>5</sup>.

<sup>1.</sup> Mookerji, R.K. : *Ancient Indian Education*, pp. 333-34

<sup>2.</sup> *Ibid*, p. 67

<sup>3.</sup> Majumdar, R.C., Ray Chaudhuri, H.C. and Dutta, K. : *An Advanced History of India*, p. 51

<sup>4.</sup> Altekar, A.S. : *Education in Ancient India*, pp. 261-65

<sup>5.</sup> Rice, L. : *Appendix to the Report of Indian Education Commission of 1882*, p. 78

It is difficult, however, to determine the impact of Muslims on the educational system in this region, but it may be presumed that they established their own schools (*maktabas*) mostly attached to the mosques. In those days *pathshalas* and *maktabas* were almost always privately owned and run, receiving no regular financial aid from the government, except occasional gifts of land or money or cattle.

At the time of the advent of the British, there were some secular elementary schools also in which reading, writing and a little arithmetic were taught. The trading classes gave their children mainly vocational training required in trades such as carpentry, smithy, and tailoring. Schooling of girls was not in vogue but this does not mean that they were ignorant and untrained. They were generally given training in cooking, house-keeping and tailoring at home by the elderly ladies of their families who also familiarised them with religion and legends (*Puranas*).

The first attempt for imparting systematic education was made in 1862, when a zila school, supported by subscriptions and grants-in-aid given by the government was established at Lakhimpur. Within a year two Tahsili schools were opened, one each at Muhamdi and Gola Gokarnanath, the former came to be one of the best institutions of Avadh due to the patronage of local talukdars. In 1865, four vernacular middle schools, were started, one each at Muhamdi, Kheri, Bairwar and Aurangabad. In 1869, twelve elementary schools were opened, with a total average attendance of 194 pupils. Attention was also paid to the education of girls and in 1871 a girls' school with 17 pupils was started at Muhamdi. In 1896, the district had 86 elementary schools with 3,179 pupils including 147 girls, besides 5 secondary schools with 554 pupils. In 1904, the number of elementary schools rose to 157 with 5,185 pupils including 189 girls and the number of secondary schools was ■ with 700 students. Besides these there were several private schools throughout the district specially in the Muhamdi tahsil, in which religious instruction either in Sanskrit or in Arabic was given and in some of them the Kaithi script, the multiplication table and a mechanical type of arithmetic were also taught. By 1911 the number of secondary schools had risen to seven. The schools for boys, supported with the funds of the district and municipal boards, numbered 100, of which 51 were upper primary and 49 lower primary ones. In addition, there were several other private schools purely religious, for boys in different parts of the district specially in the Muhamdi tahsil. In some of these schools, arithmetic was taught, reliance being placed principally on memory. By 1924, the number of secondary schools had gone up to 13 and that of primary schools to 269. Female education and education amongst depressed classes made fair progress and no fee was charged in these schools.

Preparatory classes in all schools were generally overcrowded. The reason was that the small children were looked after in the school, but as soon as they were able to help their parents in the fields, they were taken away from the educational institutions to start taking part in agricultural pursuits. There was also an industrial school at Lakhimpur.

In 1931-32 there were in the district 12 middle and 336 primary schools with 1,340 (girls 80) and 15,650 (girls 1,254) students respectively. The district was educationally backward, especially in female education. There were only 1,254 students in 30 schools maintained by the district board. Apart from these schools there were the model girls' school and the Arya Kanya Pathshala in Lakhimpur, and the Queen Mary's Girls' School at Singahi. After the attainment of Independence greater attention was given to education in the district.

#### GROWTH OF LITERACY

The census of 1881, recorded 13,697 persons as being able to read and write, while in 1891 the number rose to 15,908 and in 1901 to 16,281. But it was the most backward district in literacy, except Budaun, in the whole of the State. Thereafter, there has been a steady rise in the number of literate persons both males and females as would appear from the following table for the census years 1911 to 1961 :

Year	Percentage of literacy among	
	Males	Females
1911	8.5	0.8
1921	8.9	0.2
1931	4.2	0.5
1951	9.7	1.7
1961	18.8	4.1

By 1961, there had been considerable improvement but the district still lagged behind the State average of 17.7 per cent in literacy, the corresponding percentage of the district being only 12.0. It occupied the 50th place among the districts in the State.

In 1971, the percentage of literacy rose to 21.41 for males and 6.40 for females, being largely due to considerable rise in literacy in the urban areas where the percentage of literate males was 52.15 and of females, 85.08, while the corresponding percentages for the rural areas were 19.86 and 4.52 respectively.

The following statement gives the educational standards of the literate population according to the census of 1961 :

Educational standard 1	Persons 2	Persons	
		Males 3	Females 4
<b>Urban</b>			
Literate without educational level	18,651	8,509	5,142
Primary or junior Basic	8,581	6,086	2,475
Matriculation or higher secondary	3,984	3,227	707

(Continued :

	1	2	3	4
Technical diploma not equal to degree	1	1	—	—
University degree or post-graduate degree other than technical degree	1,104	985	119	
Technical degree or diploma equal to degree or post-graduate degree	55	55	—	—
Engineering	4	4	—	—
Medicine	18	18	—	—
Agriculture	1	1	—	—
Veterinary and dairying	2	2	—	—
Teaching	30	30	—	—
Rural				
Literate without educational level	80,802	69,541	11,261	
Primary or junior Basic	37,854	34,203	3,651	
Matriculation and above	5,075	4,858	217	

#### GENERAL EDUCATION

Education now starts generally with the pre-junior Basic class or nursery stage and goes up to the university stage.

#### Pre-junior Basic Stage

Pre-junior Basic education imparted to children up to six years of age. The following statement gives the numbers of the students as numerators and the numbers of teachers as denominators in the schools devoted to the education of such children in the district from 1972-73 to 1976-77 :

Year	No. of students/No. of teachers Sri Gandhi Baluddyan, Lakhimpur founded in 1961	No. of students/No. of teachers Shishu Niketan, Gola Gokarannath founded in 1966
1972-73	809/16	158/11
1973-74	888/16	104/12
1974-75	447/17	236/13
1975-76	419/18	260/18
1976-77	414/18	285/12

The following statement gives the number of students in the other categories of schools in the district in 1976-77 :

Category of schools	Number of schools/ colleges	Number of students	
		Boys	Girls
Junior Basic	1,205	90,508	86,791
Senior Basic	129	12,187	1,765
Higher secondary	38	21,785	4,567
Degree colleges	8	1,876	882

### Junior and Senior Basic Stage

Education at the junior and senior Basic stages is based on the Wardha scheme of education, initiated by Mahatma Gandhi in 1937, and adopted by the State Government with certain modifications. The junior Basic stage of education begins from class I and ends at class V, and the senior Basic stage is spread over classes VI to VIII. Mahatma Gandhi held that education ought to draw out the best in the pupil in body, mind and spirit. It implied that free and compulsory education for a term of eight years be provided by the State, that the mother-tongue be the medium of instruction, that the process of education should centre around some useful handicraft enabling the child to give expression to his creative ability the moment his training is begun, and that, every school be self-supporting.

In order to ensure academic and administrative efficiency, Basic education has been nationalised through the Basic Shiksha Adhiniyam since July 25, 1972. The management of Basic schools has accordingly been transferred from the local bodies to the board of Basic education. Control at the district level, is vested in the Zila Shiksha Samiti, and at the village level in the Gaon Shiksha Samiti. In 1976-77, the numbers of junior Basic schools for boys and girls were 1,016 and 189 respectively with 90,508 boys and 86,791 girls on roll. In the same year there were 84 and 45 senior Basic schools for boys and girls respectively attended by 12,187 boys and 1,765 girls, on roll. The number of teachers in the junior Basic schools for boys and girls was 8,268 men and 451 women respectively. The numbers of teachers in the senior Basic schools for boys and girls were 501 men and 118 women respectively. The number of schools and students in different types of school from 1967-68 to 1976-77 is given in Statement I at the end of the chapter.

### Secondary Education

The secondary education now covers classes after the junior Basic stage up to class XII. With the establishment of the board of high school and intermediate education, U.P. in 1921, the high school and intermediate examinations began to be held at the end of class X and class XII respectively. To encourage female education, the State Government has made girls' education free up to class X since January 1, 1965.

In 1976-77, the district had 38 higher secondary institutions with a total enrolment of 26,802 pupils. These last figures indicate a progressive trend in comparison to the preceding years 1972-73 and 1973-74 when the number of pupils was 18,920 and 20,787 respectively. Some details regarding these institutions of the district are given in Statement II at the end of the chapter.

### Re-orientation Scheme

The re-orientation scheme which was introduced in the district in 1954, aims at introducing agriculture as the central craft in as many senior Basic schools and higher secondary schools as might procure at least 10 acres of arable land for farming. The following statement gives certain details regarding various types of schools teaching agriculture as a compulsory subject in 1974-75 in the district :

Type of schools	Number of schools	Total acreage
Higher secondary school up to XII	8	20.7
Higher secondary school up to X	5	12.0
Senior Basic school	9	25.9

### Higher Education

The number of institutions imparting education up to the degree and post-graduate level came to 8 in 1974-75, all being affiliated to the Kanpur University, of these two imparted education to both boys and girls, while only one, i.e. Bhagvandin Arya Kanya Degree College, Lakhimpur, functioned exclusively for girls. The number of students from 1972-73 to 1976-77 is given in Statement III at the end of the chapter.

Yuvraj Dutt Post-graduate College, Lakhimpur was founded as the first college for providing higher education in 1949. At present it has B.A., B.Sc., B.Com., and post-graduate classes in several subjects. It has a good building and hostel arrangements. In 1972-73, the number of students was 1,824 but within a year the number of students rose to 1,617. In the following years there was a decline in the number of students enrolled, as there were only 1,498 students in 1974-75 and only 1,385 students in 1975-76. The number of teachers in all these years was in the vicinity of 50.

Bhagvandin Arya Kanya Mahavidyalaya, Lakhimpur, was established in 1965. It is the only institution for girls' higher education and teaches up to the degree level in arts only. The number of students was 130 in 1973-74 and 186 and 173 in the following two years respectively.

The Cane Growers Nehru Degree College, Gola Gokarannath was founded in 1966. It teaches up to the degree level in arts only. The number of students in 1972-73 was 278 which went up to 854 in 1974-75 and 474 in 1975-76.

### EDUCATION OF SCHEDULED CASTES AND OTHER BACKWARD CLASSES

To encourage education amongst the youth of the Scheduled Castes and Other Backward Classes, the State Government provides various incentives such as exemption from tuition fee, stipends, scholarships, financial assistance for purchase of books and stationery, free hostel facilities and relaxation of upper age limit for admission to certain educational institutions. The Central Government also gives scholarships to the students who get through the examinations from the intermediate to the university stage.

The number of such students receiving financial assistance in different categories of schools in 1973-74 was as follows :

Schools	Scheduled Castes		Other Backward Classes	
	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls
Junior Basic	18,808	7,280	36,552	11,566
Senior Basic	2,763	421	8,282	760
Higher secondary (up to class X)	1,265	85	1,012	282
Higher secondary (up to class XII)	889	14	1,945	61

Details of assistance rendered by the State and Central Governments to these classes have been given in chapter XVII of this volume.

### PROFESSIONAL AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION

The industrial training institute, Lakhimpur, run by the State directorate of training and employment, was established in 1968. It imparts training in various trades including those of fitter, welder, grinder, tools and die-maker, electrician, mechanic, surveyor, moulder, blacksmithy, bookbinding, cutter, tailor, knitter, weaver, printer and stenographer. The trainees are awarded a national trade certificate on the successful completion of their training. Stipends up to Rs 25 per month are awarded to about 88 per cent of the trainees, sons and wards of ex-servicemen and political sufferers being given preference. In 1974-75, this institute had 111 trainees. The number increased to 126 in 1975-76 and to 150 in 1976-77, the number of teachers being 19 in 1975-76 and 18 in the remaining two years.

Government normal schools are at present being run at Kheri, Oel and Lakhimpur for imparting training for the Basic teachers' certificates which are awarded after the successful completion of a course spread over one year. The school at Oel is meant exclusively for the training of girls and was established last of all in 1964. The Kheri school was the first to be established, the year being 1949, followed by the school at Lakhimpur which was setup in 1959.

In 1975-76 the schools at Kheri, Oel and Lakhimpur respectively had nearly 95 pupil teachers and staff of nearly 11 teachers in all three years from 1974-75 to 1976-77.

### Oriental Education

**Sanskrit**—There were six institutions in the district in 1974-75 imparting education in subjects like Sanskrit literature, *vyakarna* (grammar), *ganita* (mathematics) and *darshan* (philosophy), which are affiliated to the Varanasya Sanskrit Vishwa Vidyalaya, Varanasi. The following table gives some particulars about the Sanskrit *pathshalas* functioning in the district in 1974-75 :

Name and location	Year of establishment	Founder	Courses of studies
Sri Sanatana Dharm Sanskrit Vidya- laya, Lakhimpur	1890	Late Mohan Lal Tiwari	Acharya
Srimati Rani Chandeli Sanskrit Vidya- laya, Gola Gokarannath	1914	Late Chandra Kunwari Rani Chandeli	Shastri
Sri Sishu Sudharak Sanskrit Vidya- laya, Singahi	1917	Sri Rana Girver Singh	Madhyama
Sri Jageshwar Nath Sanskrit Vidya- laya, Gola Gokarannath	1986	Rani Srimati Tej Kunwari Devi	Madhyama
Sri Radha Krishna Sarvajanik Adarsha Sanskrit Mahavidyalaya, Gola Gokarannath	1941	Mahant Sri Keshava Nand Giri	Acharya
Sri Parashar Rishikula Brahmacarya Sanskrit Vidyalaya, Mathiabhat Pangalganj	1947	Sri Narain Swami	Shastri

### PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Physical education forms part of the curricula of almost all the educational institutions in the district. Training under the auspices of the national cadet corps and the Bharat scouts and guides association is given in a number of higher secondary schools. Mass physical training exercises and displays are the main features of the regional meet every year. Students are also trained in social and cultural activities at annual rallies when competitions in games and sports are also organised.

### FINE ARTS

#### Folk Music and Dance

Folk songs most popular in the district are *dhartee geets* (country songs) sung on the occasion of agricultural operations like transplanting paddy or harvesting the Rabi crops and *sohar*, *banna*, and *vivah geets*, sung on ceremonial occasions. Women also sing *devi geets* while proceeding to take a dip in the rivers or visiting temples. Other songs sung at different times of the year are *kaharwa* at Dipawali, *phag* during Holi, *alha* and *kajri* during the rainy season and *birha* and *barahmasi* for the whole of the year. The popular folk dances of the district like *kaharwa* and *dhobia* are performed to the accompaniment of songs and musical instruments such as the harmonium, *dholak*, (small drum), *manjira*, (cymbals) *thali*, *mridung*, and *nagara* (kettle-drum).

#### LIBRARIES AND READING-ROOMS

In 1973-74, there were 3 main libraries in the district besides smaller libraries and reading-rooms. The following statement gives some detailed information about the main libraries :

Name and location	Number of books	Number of newspapers and periodicals	Number of visitors daily
Willoughby Memorial Library, Lakhimpur	8,789	18	40
Sri Jawahar Lal Nehru Library, Barwar	682	4	30
Amar Shahid Raj Narain Library, Lakhimpur	1,773	18	60

**STATEMENT—I**  
*Literacy and General Education*

(Reference Page No. 218)

Year	Junior Basic Education			Senior Basic Education			Higher Secondary Education			
	No. of schools	No. of students		No. of schools	No. of students		No. of schools	No. of students		
		Boys	Girls		Boys	Girls		Boys	Girls	
1967-68	1,056	1,01,086	80,256	98	7,676	15,880	18	5	11,025	2,204
1968-69	1,067	1,02,846	80,468	105	7,969	15,956	21	5	11,605	2,486
1969-70	1,086	1,03,889	80,640	109	8,489	16,479	28	5	12,405	2,556
1970-71	1,099	1,05,898	80,856	111	8,899	16,999	25	5	12,889	2,879
1971-72	1,105	1,07,656	80,028	112	9,589	17,468	27	5	18,456	3,595
1972-73	1,188	1,08,277	50,876	118	9,767	1,862	27	5	15,018	8,907
1973-74	1,187	1,12,654	58,822	114	9,608	1,846	30	5	16,700	4,087
1974-75	1,196	1,11,888	54,671	181	12,648	1,842	32	5	18,824	4,828
1975-76	1,205	1,02,807	48,619	129	12,782	1,801	38	5	19,446	4,414
1976-77	1,205	90,508	86,791	129	12,187	1,765	33	5	21,785	4,567

**STATEMENT—II**  
*List of Intermediate Colleges and Higher Secondary Schools (1974-75)*  
(Reference Page No. 214)

Institution	Year of establishment	No. of pupils	No. of teachers	1	2	3	4
				1	2	3	4
Zila Parishad Higher Secondary School, Aurangabad	1883	475	17				
P.K. Intermediate College, Lakhimpur	1885	1,407	51				
Government Girls' Intermediate College, Lakhimpur	1908	822	44				
Government Intermediate College, Lakhimpur	1914	876	66				
A.K. Intermediate College, Lakhimpur	1919	994	42				
Zila Parishad Higher Secondary School, Kasta	1920	415	14				
Abul Kalam Azad Girls' Higher Secondary School, Lakhimpur	1930	757	17				
P. Intermediate College, Gola Gokarannath	1984	1,560	50				
P.K. Intermediate College, Lakhimpur	1985	792	28				
Y.D. Intermediate College, Oel	1989	849	80				
A.V. Intermediate College, Palia Kalan	1948	678	26				
J.P. Intermediate College, Muhamdi	1949	1,011	35				

(Continued)

1	2	3	4
K.S. Intermediate College, Gola Gokarannath .	1949	1,778	55
P. Intermediate College, Sarojini Nagar	1950	627	25
G.V. Intermediate College, Lakhimpur	1951	670	27
Gandhi Higher Secondary School, Gola Gokarannath	1951	304	13
Janta Higher Secondary School, Lageha	1952	506	10
C.J. Intermediate College, G.B. Ganj, Lakhimpur	1953	946	36
R.P.V.S. Higher Secondary School, Singahi	1956	317	14
K. Higher Secondary School, Nimgaon	1956	187	7
R.D. Higher Secondary School, Bawbhanpur	1958	337	12
Kishan Higher Secondary School, Pharenda	1960	610	14
K.S. Higher Secondary School, Fatteypur	1960	800	18
Guru Nanak Higher Secondary School, Barkuva	1962	884	15
Zila Parishad Higher Secondary School, Paila	1964	188	4
Public Higher Secondary School, Isanagar	1964	229	10
Bhartiya Higher Secondary School, Muhamdi	1964	285	10
S.S.P. Higher Secondary School, Lakhimpur	1965	142	7
Islamia Higher Secondary School, Lakhimpur	1965	154	8
L.B.S. Intermediate College, Mailani	1965	455	19
Kishan Higher Secondary School, Niungaon	1966	187	7
Zila Parishad Higher Secondary School, Fatpurva	1967	207	7
Guru Nanak Girls Higher Secondary School, Gola Gokarannath	1967	48	3
Zila Parishad Higher Secondary School, Kolaitm	1970	844	11
Y.P. Higher Secondary School, Bilwa	1972	172	8

**STATEMENT—III**  
**Higher Education**

(Reference Pg<sup>n</sup> No. 214)

Year	Bachelor's degree						Master's degree			
	No. of colleges		No. of students		faculties function-ing	No. of colleges	No. of students		faculties function-ing	
	For girls alone	For others	Boys	Girls			For girls alone	For others		
1967-68	1	2	989	200	Art, science, commerce and Education	1	2	140	18	Art
1968-69	1	2	1,000	250	"	1	2	145	24	"
1969-70	1	2	1,020	256	"	1	2	166	20	"
1970-71	1	2	1,176	272	"	1	2	186	20	"
1971-72	1	2	1,286	282	"	1	2	200	28	"
1972-73	1	2	1,385	296	"	1	2	288	28	"
1973-74	1	2	1,489	368	"	1	2	278	62	"
1974-75	1	2	1,558	382	"	1	2	204	60	"
1975-76	1	2	1,410	286	"	1	2	180	63	"
1976-77	1	2	1,686	312	"	1	2	192	70	"

## CHAPTER XVI

### MEDICAL AND PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES

#### **Medical Facilities In Early Times**

The diseases in the distant past in this district, as elsewhere, were generally attributed to unlucky stars and misdeeds and claimed the attention of the physicians, sorcerers and astrologers equally.

The ancient system of medicine was derived mainly from the Ayurveda, and was based on hygiene and regulation of diet and mentions numerous herbal drugs in addition to extracts derived from animal and mineral products. Some of the poisonous plants are reputed to possess medicinal properties. Important among the herbs and plants are the *dhatura*, *madar*, *binaula*, *kaladana*, *pipar*, *sonth*, *ashwagandha*, *sarpagandha*, *chirayota*, *gokharu*, *mirsch*, *bhringraja* and *banchlochan*. The minerals, which are used for medical purposes are given in the shape of *bhasma* (powder). The *tirphala*, a mixture of *harra*, *bahera* and *amla*, is a preparation of high therapeutic value. An emulsion of the leaves of the *neem* tree helps in treating rheumatic patients. The *arak* (juice) of the peach, *aru* or *shafthalu* is often used as blood purifier. A decoction obtained from the *bel* is given to those suffering from dysentery. A medicine prepared from yellow fruit of *mainphal* relieves headache.

The practitioners of the Ayurvedic system are known as Ayurvedacharyas or Vaidyas, who were also well-known here in the past. The study of Ayurveda comprised a knowledge of the diverse aspects of the medical science such as pathology, medicine, surgery, toxicology, and orthopedics. Some of the practitioners were also skilled in *salya chikitsa* (surgery), Kautilya, in his *Arthashastra*, has referred to post-mortem examinations and Sushruta has described various instruments and methods of surgery. The materia medica of the Vaidyas is known as Bhava Prakash.

Usually important and costly Ayurvedic medicines are prepared by the Vaidyas under their direct supervision. The common drugs and herbs, as prescribed by them, are sold by shopkeepers known as *attars*. Some Ayurvedic firms are also manufacturing Ayurvedic medicines by more refined methods and, of late, the allopaths have also started using patent Ayurvedic medicines.

The Unani system of medicine, based on the Greek system as adopted by the Arabs, was also introduced in the district during the Muslim rule. The physicians and the surgeons of this system are respectively known as *hakims*, and *jarrahs* (surgeon barbers).

The allopathic system of medicine was introduced in the district in the nineteenth century. Hospitals and dispensaries were opened

in the district and were put under the control of the district board, while the civil surgeon looked after their administration with the help of his staff.

The first dispensary was opened at Muhamdi in 1860. Two years later the Sadar dispensary was built at Lakhimpur, and that at Muhamdi was maintained as branch institution. In 1864, a third dispensary was opened at Gola, the district, by reason of its unhealthiness, being better provided in this respect than any other part of Avadh. Other dispensaries were subsequently added at Dhaurahra and Singahi. Similar institutions for restricted use were the police hospital at Lakhimpur, the railway hospital at Mailani, and the forest dispensary at Palia. Only the Sadar dispensary, Lakhimpur, admitted indoor patients. In 1903, the daily average attendance at the hospitals was 232 persons. External relief was also largely given in the shape of free distribution of quinine and other febrifuges. The number of hospitals now functioning in the district and other detailed information about them will be given under the head, Medical and Public Health Organisation, in a subsequent part of this chapter.

#### VITAL STATISTICS

With its bad reputation for unhealthiness, it could only be expected that the death-rate should be higher in this district than in many other parts of Avadh. At the same time it is less than in the adjoining district of Bahraich, where the physical conditions are similar. According to the returns, the death-rate from 1871 to 1880 was only 23.28 per thousand of the population but this was undoubtedly too low and may be ascribed to a defective system of record. For the following decade the average was 30.09, and from 1891 to 1900 it was as much as 36.37 as against 37.47 for the same period in Bahraich. The highest rate ever recorded was that of 1894, an abnormally wet year, when it rose to 58.15 per thousand. The birth-rate, on the other hand, generally exceeds that of deaths by a considerable margin. From 1891 to 1900 the average was 40.09 per thousand, and since the famine of 1897 up to 1904 it was no less than 48.09. The following figures show the mean decennial registered birth-and death-rates per thousand of the population :

Decade/year	Birth-rate	Death-rate
1901-1910	47.2	40.3
1911-1920	41.8	41.3
1921-1930	35.2	26.3
1931-1940	37.4	26.4
1941-1950	34.1	17.4
1951	9.2	12.3
1960	10.7	10.8

The high death-rates in the different decades were due to fever, cholera and smallpox. Among these fever took the heaviest toll.

The vital statistics of the district, per thousand of the population for the recent years are as follows :

Year	Births	Birth-rate	Deaths	Death-rate
1964	22,774	16.7	16,568	12.2
1965	N.A.	17.7	N.A.	11.1
1966	22,578	15.8	18,810	9.7
1967	20,288	14.0	12,682	8.7
1968	19,212	13.0	71,588	7.8
1969	4,786	4.8	1,589	1.4
1970	4,500	8.5	1,221	2.8
1971	2,221	12.4	519	2.9

### Infant Mortality

The rate of mortality among children below one year of age was quite alarming till a few years after Independence. However, with the implementation of improved maternity and child welfare schemes, the mortality rate in recent years has been reduced. The figure of infant mortality in 1951 was 8,407, which came down to 2,007 in 1960. These figures for recent years were as follows :

Year	No. of infants who died
1964	2,004
1965	N.A.
1966	2,381
1967	2,580
1968	1,894
1969	233
1970	146
1971	35
1972	12

N.A.—Not available

Source—Assistant Director, Vital Statistics, U.P., Lucknow

## DISEASES

**Common Diseases**

The diseases which account for a large number of deaths in the district are fever, diarrhoea, dysentery, respiratory diseases, cholera and smallpox.

**Fever**—As everywhere else, the most common disease of the district is fever, which prevails in all its parts. The term fever has a wide connotation which not only includes typhoid, pneumonia and malaria, but covers many other diseases of which fever is only a symptom. Fever has its maximum incidence in the months of August, September, and October. The prevalence of fever and of the resultant bowel complaints is ascribed, in a large measure, to the petroleum or bitumen which is frequently found floating on the surface of well water. The returns from 1871 to 1901 show that out of the total number of deaths recorded, no less than 84.5 per cent were ascribed to fever, and in some years the proportion was even higher. Between 1891—1900 no less than 2,90,144 persons died due to fever. The number of deaths in the district caused by fever in different decades are given below :

Decade	Total deaths	Average mortality per year	Maximum deaths	
			Year	Number of deaths
1901-1910	2,91,618	29,162	1908	40,662
1911-1920	8,44,478	84,448	1918	71,721
1921-1930	1,98,274	19,827	1921	28,018
1931-1940	2,17,998	21,999	1934	24,819
1941-1950	1,51,968	15,197	1941	22,085
1951-1960	65,259	6,526	1951	9,109

The fall in number of deaths during 1951-60 was due to good weather and by large scale adoption of preventive and curative measures.

The number of deaths by fever in the district between 1966 and 1972 are given below :

Year	Number of deaths
1966	7,155
1967	5,440
1968	4,637
1969	N.A.
1970	688
1971	250
1972	89

The small number of deaths in 1972 was a result of better season and adoption of preventive and curative measures.

**Dysentery and Diarrhoea**—These diseases begin in the form of bowel and stomach complaints. The incidence is attributed mostly to insanitary conditions and unsatisfactory drinking water arrangements. The number of deaths by bowel complaints, as reported in last decade of the last century, was the highest (143) in 1897 and the lowest (only 11) in 1900. The number of deaths by bowel disorders during the first six decades of the present century was as follows :

Decade	Total deaths	Average mortality per year	Maximum deaths	
			Year	Number of deaths
1901-1910	241	24	1903	40
1911-1920	200	20	1917	52
1921-1930	360	36	1930	74
1931-1940	602	60	1938	100
1941-1950	559	56	1948	283
1951-1960	5,720	578	1954	819

The larger number of deaths during the decade 1951-60 was due to floods and other natural calamities which occurred in the district.

The yearwise number of deaths caused by bowel complaints since 1964 is given below :

Year	No. of deaths
1964	1,213
1965	1,155
1966	1,181
1967	1,091
1968	1,004
1969	N.A.
1970	15
1971	25
1972	12

**Respiratory Diseases**—These diseases are commonly not the immediate cause of death, but often lead to temporary or permanent disability, and in some cases they may also prove fatal. Important among the respiratory diseases are the broncho-pneumonia, bronchitis,

pleurisy, asthma, laryngitis, and phthisis. Of these diseases 645 persons died in 1951, 487 in 1956, 611 in 1957, 1,148 in 1958, 762 in 1959 and 1,181 in 1960. The numbers of deaths resulting from these diseases in recent years are given in the following statement :

Year	No. of deaths
1964	2,289
1965	2,498
1966	2,819
1967	2,258
1968	2,056
1969	—
1970	141
1971	■
1972	26

The larger numbers of deaths due to respiratory diseases between the years 1964 and 1968 was the result of much colder season and spread of influenza in the district. Adoption of preventive and curative measures resulted in the decrease of number of deaths during the last two years.

### Epidemics

The epidemics like smallpox, cholera and plague used to take a heavy toll of life in the district, the percentage of the deaths due to them being very high in the last century. This was, however, reduced after the implementation of the Vaccination Act of 1880, which made primary vaccination compulsory. The responsibility of dealing with the outbreak of an epidemic now rests with the deputy chief medical officer (health), who is assisted by other staff like sanitary inspectors and vaccinators. The medical officers in the charge of the State and Zila Parishad dispensaries also carry out preventive work during the outbreaks of epidemics. The Epidemic Act, 1871, has authorised the district magistrate to remove patients to hospitals, segregate them, disinfect the dwellings, evacuate infected houses and localities and close educational institutions to check the spread of epidemics.

**Smallpox**—This epidemic which was formerly so largely prevalent in the district, sharply declined in intensity, at the turn of the last century and the returns were blank, for the first time on record, in the year 1900. From 1871 to 1880 the average mortality was 1,113 annually; there were no exceptional epidemics, and the disease appeared constantly every year. During the following ten years the average was very much higher, being nearly 2,000 a year, but the higher mortality was due chiefly to the outbreaks in 1883, 1884 and 1888. Since then there

has been no similar epidemic, although in 1898 and 1897 the number of deaths was over 1,000. In the present century the number of deaths has declined. The decrease was maintained after the spread of vaccination. The following statement gives the figures of total deaths caused by smallpox during the first six decades of the present century :

Decade	Total deaths	Average mortality per year	Maximum deaths	
			Year	Number of deaths
1901-1910	1,560	156	1904	577
1911-1920	502	56	1914	465
1921-1930	372	87	1922	221
1931-1940	970	97	1936	421
1941-1950	1,451	145	1941	576
1951-1960	8,032	808	1951	758

The deaths caused by smallpox, have, however, gone down in recent years. In 1968, about 57 persons died of smallpox; and the figures of deaths were not reported as very high in the district in any subsequent year.

**Cholera**—The district, from time to time, used to be visited by severe epidemics of cholera which carried off more people than any other epidemic. Generally this disease appears in summer, suddenly intensifies in May and reaches its peak in June. The disease is contracted through infected food and contaminated water, and generally spreads in the fairs and festivals, which usually occur in summer. The early records of the last century are unreliable; but from 1871 to 1880 the average annual mortality was 865, more than half the deaths occurring in the last year alone. In the following decade there were severe outbreaks in 1882 and 1883, but these were altogether eclipsed by the great epidemic of 1890, when over 11,500 persons died of this disease. The annual average for the ten years amounted to 2,252. From 1891 to 1900, cholera was always present in the district; but the worst epidemics were those of 1892 and 1894, which together carried off over 11,000 persons. This disease continued in its highly fatal incidence during the first five decades of the present century as is evident from the following figures :

Decade	Total deaths	Average mortality per year	Maximum deaths	
			Year	Number of deaths
1901-1910	22,959	2,296	1906	9,270
1911-1920	16,600	1,660	1911	5,716
1921-1930	13,214	1,321	1921	8,198
1931-1940	5,744	574	1938	1,849
1941-1950	11,812	1,181	1946	5,168
1951-1960	1,348	185	1952	487

Cholera in the last decade did not claim many victims. The maximum number of deaths was noted in 1967, when 29 persons died of this disease. However, in recent years no deaths have been noted as caused by cholera in the district.

**Plague**—This district remained free from plague for a longer period than any other part of Avadh and up to the turn of the century the ravages of this disease had been very slight. The first outbreak occurred in November 1903, which took the life of 10 persons, the infection having been brought here from Sitapur. The first three decades of the current century suffered comparatively highly from the ravages of the epidemic as would appear from the following table :

Decade	Total deaths	Average mortality per year	Maximum deaths	
			Year	No. of deaths
1901-1910	2,842	284	1907	1,866
1911-1920	1,825	182	1912	818
1921-1930	9,824	882	1928	1,534
1931-1940	510	51	1931	896
1941-1950	881	88	1948	277
1951-1960	19	2	1951	19

After 1966, none died of plague in the district, as almost everywhere in India.

### Other Diseases

Among some other common diseases prevalent here, are tuberculosis, leprosy, chicken-pox, measles, gastro-enteritis, diphtheria, whooping cough, senile cataract, glaucoma, trachoma, syphilis, gonorrhoea and goitre. After the achievement of Independence, the government have made planned and substantial efforts to improve the environmental conditions and health of the people. These measures have considerably checked the incidence of diseases in the district. Improved medical facilities are available in hospitals and dispensaries. To take care of tuberculosis patients, a T.B. Clinic was opened at Kheri in the year 1959. For leprosy patients, the Leprosy Control Unit has also been established at Kheri in the year 1955. Syphilis and gonorrhoea have almost disappeared since the enforcement of the Suppression of Immoral Traffic Act in 1958, and diphtheria, whooping cough and tetanus are also on the decrease since the popularisation of the preventive injections of what are known as triple antigens. Cataract is also being easily cured by surgical operations by the net-work of doctors of the branches of the Sitapur Eye Hospital, who have been holding camps in almost every important place in every district every winter for the last 15 years.

## MEDICAL AND PUBLIC HEALTH ORGANISATION

### Organisational Setup

Prior to 1948 there were separate departments for medical and public health activities but they were amalgamated in that year under a directorate for the better co-ordination of their activities and control over the allopathic, Ayurvedic and the Unani institutions and services. In July, 1961, however, a separate directorate was established at Lucknow for the development and effective supervision of Ayurvedic and Unani institutions and services. Local administration of these institutions, however, remained in the charge of the district medical officer of health, now designated deputy chief medical officer (health).

Formerly the civil surgeon and the district medical officer of health respectively headed the medical and public health organisations in the district. In July 1973, the department of medical and public health services was again reorganised in the State, abolishing the posts of the civil surgeon and the district medical officer of health. In the district, from the same year, under the new setup, a chief medical officer has been appointed who heads the entire medical, public health, and family planning structure in the district. He is assisted by three deputy chief medical officers. In the urban circle, at the district headquarters, the superintendents of the District Hospital (Male) and the Women hospital control the medical, health and family planning activities in their respective institutions. All supervisory functions in relation to the health and family planning activities in the district are exercised by or under the superintendence of the chief medical officer.

At the district headquarters the municipal medical officer of health is responsible for the public health activities. The rural area has been divided amongst the three deputy chief medical officers for all medical, health and family planning work.

The public health centres in the rural areas are equally distributed among the deputy chief medical officers. The rural State dispensaries fall under the primary health centres and are also under the deputy chief medical officer concerned.

At the level of primary health centre, a medical officer is in overall charge of the medical, health and family planning activities. The medical officer is assisted by another medical officer in family planning and maternity and child welfare centres.

### Hospitals

There are 7 State hospitals in the district, including four for women. Besides these there are three hospitals managed by the Zila Parishad (one each at Khamaria, Singahi and Gola), three branches of the Sitapur Eye Hospital (one each at Gola, Lakhimpur, and Palia), a leprosy hospital (private) at Lakhimpur, a police hospital (Kheri), a jail hospital at Kheri and a forest hospital at Dudhawa. As already mentioned, the State Government has also established a T.B. Clinic and a leprosy

unit in the district, both at Kheri. The district also has one government aided homeopathic hospital at Lakhimpur. In 1971, the total number of the medical units in the urban areas of the district was 80, including 15 hospitals. They provided 889 beds for indoor patients, the number of beds per 1,000 population being 8.6.

The District Hospital, Lakhimpur, has 116 beds, and is equipped with an X-ray apparatus. Its expenditure in 1973-74 was Rs 2,35,590. Among female hospitals, the Dufferin Hospital, Lakhimpur, had 86 beds with an expenditure of Rs 1,19,544 in the year 1973-74. The following statement gives detailed information regarding State hospitals as in 1974 :

Hospitals	Staff		Number of beds	Number of patients treated	
	No. of doctors	Others		Out-door	In-door
District hospital, Lakhimpur	7	67	110	48,877	4,861
Dufferin hospital, Lakhimpur	1	21	36	7,811	8,865
Men's hospital, Sampurnanagar	1	4	8	10,686	174
Men's hospital, Nighasan	2	4	8	9,077	18
Women's hospital, Nighasan	1	4	6	4,064	4
Women's hospital, Gola	1	7	4	4,906	120
Women's hospital, Sampurnanagar	1	4	4	940	91

### Dispensaries

**Allopathic**—The following statement gives certain details about the allopathic dispensaries in the district in 1973 :

Dispensary	Staff		No. of beds	No. of patients treated	
	No. of medical officer	Others		In-door	Out-door
Sikandarabad dispensary	1	8	4	8	4,108
Gola Female dispensary	1	7	4	N.A.	N.A.

Barbar dispensary	1	8	4	5	8,923
Jungbahadurganj dispensary	1	8	4	206	11,463
Muhamdi Female dispensary	1	5	4	74	8,453
Kakraha dispensary	1	8	—	—	N.A.
Kalua Moti dispensary	1	8	4	—	1,184
Maghgain dispensary	1	8	4	—	9,867
Tikunia dispensary	1	8	4	57	8,707
Nighasan Female dispensary	1	4	6	84	13,121
Sampurnanagar Female dispensary	1	4	4	N.A.	N.A.
Sampurnanagar Male dispensary	1	4	8	80	16,088
Palia Female dispensary	1	4	6	160	8,470
Ranjit Ganj dispensary	1	8	—	—	2,872
Kaffara dispensary	1	8	—	—	2,868
Roshannagar dispensary	1	8	4	14	8,085
Kheri Town dispensary	1	5	—	—	N.A.
T.B. Clinic dispensary, Kheri	2	19	—	—	1,001
Leprosy control unit, Kheri	1	27	—	—	10,748

## DISPENSARIES UNDER ZILA PARISHAD

Gola Male dispensary	1	5	8	33	5,864
Kasta dispensary	1	8	4	102	6,927
Aurangabad dispensary	1	4	4	68	6,292
Singahi dispensary	1	4	8	24	8,495
Khamaria dispensary	1	8	16	475	5,899
Hassainpur Katauli dispensary	1	8	—	—	3,744
Bhira dispensary	1	8	—	—	5,021

Besides these, each primary health centre also has a dispensary.

**Ayurvedic and Unani Dispensaries**—There were 13 State Ayurvedic dispensaries in the district in 1978, one each at Abgawan, Aligunj, Belayan, Jatpura, Lakhimpur, Mailani, Moora Galib, Oel, Phul, Behar, Rajaganj, Rampur Gokul, Sundarwal and Unchaulia. Each of them was manned by a Vaid and two others. The single Unani dispensary run by the State had one hakim and one other attendant. There were 8 other Ayurvedic dispensaries, one each at Kaimhaia, Sadhanna and Sansarpur and each was manned by a Vaid and one attendant. These dispensaries were maintained by the Zila Parishad.

### Primary Health Centres

There were 15 primary health centres in the district in 1978, which served the public of the area covered by the development blocks to which they were attached. These centres are under the charge of a medical officer, working under the supervision of the deputy chief medical officer (health). They were located, manned, had beds, and treated patients as given in the following table, in 1978 :

Location	Staff		No. of beds		No. of patients treated	
	No. of doctors	Others	Male	Female	In-door	Out-door
Isanagar	2	2	2	2	224	7,066
Dhauruhra	2	3	2	2	104	8,020
Kumbhi	2	2	—	—	—	5,658
Mitauli	2	2	2	2	65	6,442
Palia	2	3	2	2	207	18,826
Bankeganj	2	2	2	2	107	21,967
Nakha	2	2	—	—	—	8,167
Pasgawan	2	2	2	2	71	8,408
Phul Behar	2	2	—	—	—	4,571
Bhejam	2	2	2	2	158	10,824
Muhamdi	2	3	3	—	16	8,286
Ramian Behar	2	2	4	—	8	2,560
Nighasan	2	4	3	—	11	9,077
Phardhan	2	2	—	—	—	4,881
Bijua	—	2	—	—	—	4,958

### Maternity and Child Welfare

Maternity and child welfare activities in the district, as elsewhere in the State, have come a long way since the days of the untrained *dai* and the village paediatrician. Lack of facilities for ante-natal and post-natal care largely contributed to the high incidence of mortality among women and infants till the late fifties of this century when the government started taking lively interest in these matters and established maternity and child welfare centres. In 1975 there were 18 child welfare and maternity centres in the district with midwives and trained *dais* on their staffs, the tahsilwise locations of the child welfare and maternity centres are given below :

• Tahsil	Centres
Lakhimpur	Bijua Kukra Lakhimpur Mailani Oel
Nighasan	Dhaurahira Isanagar Kaffarra Nighasan Palia Ramian Behar
Muhamdi	Aurangabad Barbar Gola Mitauli Muhamdi Pasgwan Sikandarabad

These centres are equipped with aids and devices to educate women in planned parenthood. Family planning literature and contraceptives are also supplied free of cost to married couples. The following statement gives the total numbers of maternity cases conducted by midwives and *dais* at these centres :

Year	No. of delivery cases conducted	
	By nurses	By <i>dais</i>
1970	2,267	2,925
1971	3,518	2,613
1972	4,208	3,514

## Vaccination

Preventive measures against smallpox were first adopted in 1870; but for the next twenty years very little progress was made, the average number of vaccinations being less than 2,500 annually. In 1890, however, a rapid improvement was observed when no less than 6,536 persons were vaccinated. Two years later the numbers had more than doubled, and in 1894 it rose to over 27,500. During the next ten years the numbers rose steadily, the annual average for the decade 1891-1900 being 80,200, while in 1901 the number of successful primary vaccinations was over 86,000.

At present the deputy chief medical officer (health) is in charge of the vaccination work carried out in the district. He is assisted by an assistant superintendent and a team of vaccinators. Normally, in rural areas vaccination is carried out through basic health workers and in urban area through the vaccinators of the municipal boards. At the spread of epidemics, an epidemic officer and sanitary inspectors are deputed for vaccination work to control the advance of the epidemics. The work of vaccination has been intensified since 1968, when the national smallpox eradication scheme was launched. The mothers are also advised during the post-natal period to get their children vaccinated as early as possible after they are two or three months old.

The following statement gives the total number of persons vaccinated during the years 1967 to 1974 :

Year	Persons vaccinated	Number of primary vaccinations	Number of re-vaccinations
1967	1,27,476	48,147	84,829
1968	96,812	56,606	89,706
1969	1,22,186	72,557	49,629
1970	1,24,832	64,448	60,384
1971	1,84,688	75,544	59,189
1972	1,82,480	84,658	97,827
1973	1,46,899	55,947	90,952
1974	1,25,635	49,715	75,920

## Leprosy Relief

For control of leprosy here, a leprosy control unit has been established at Kheri. It established 15 sub-centres at different places in the district, and makes the survey of leprosy cases, besides giving them treatment. In 1978, it treated the following number of leprosy patients :

Leprosy diseases	Patients treated	Area in which treated	
		Projected	Unprojected
Lepromatous leprosy	1,202	405	797
Neural	4,589	1,585	8,004
Leprosy	4,778	1,681	3,142
Unspecified	184	47	187
Total	10,748	3,668	7,080

### Tuberculosis Relief

A T.B. Clinic has been established in the district to give relief to patients of tuberculosis. The mobile team of this clinic consists of a medical officer and B.C.G. technicians, who inspect the more vulnerable areas to afford help to the sufferers. The clinic also provides B.C.G. vaccination to the children. In 1971, this unit treated 1,091 patients.

### Eye Relief

Cataract, glaucoma and trachoma are the common eye diseases. The branches of the Sitapur Eye Hospital at Lakhimpur, Palia and Gola provide treatment to the eye patients on a large scale.

### Prevention of Food and Drug Adulteration

The deputy chief medical officer (health), stationed at Lakhimpur, is the licencing authority for vendors of articles of food and drug stores in the district. He is required to ensure the due observance of the Indian Drugs Act, 1940, and the Drug Rules, 1945. The medical officers of municipal boards are responsible for this work in the municipal areas. The following statement gives the details of food adulteration cases detected during last three years :

Year	Samples collected	Sample found adulterated	Convictions
1972-73	852	98	Nil
1973-74	275	69	15
1974-75	288	102	78

### National Malaria Eradication Programme

The district was categorised as a hyperendemic area and one endemic unit was established at Kheri during 1958-59. But in 1960-61, a national border malaria eradication programme unit was established here and the area of the district was re-organised between the two units. The Singahi area, which is located on the border, was detached from the endemic unit and was included in the border unit and the remaining area of the district was covered by the endemic unit.

Under this programme each unit has to pass through four phases viz. preparatory, attack, consolidation and maintenance. The preparatory work was not actually taken up here as the programme was already in operation. Therefore the attack phase (prevention, cure and annihilation of breeding) was directly launched and spraying was carried out in all the roofed structures twice a year from May to September. In the remaining months malarial surveys, consisting of spleen, parasite and infant parasite surveys, were conducted during the non-transmission season, to assess the progress achieved through spray operations. During the third year of the attack phase i.e. in 1960-61, surveillance procedures were launched in the district except in the Singahi sub-unit where these operations were launched from 1965-66 and were carried out concurrently with spray operations. The surveillance operations were continued in both the units in 1975. Under this scheme, each house visitor is allotted a population of 10-12 thousands, which he visits twice a month in search of fever cases. The blood slides of all the fever cases detected are collected and presumptive treatment with four Aminoquinolene tablets (chloroquine) is administered to each victim of fever. In the event of any slide found positive for malaria, radical treatment was given alongwith other remedial measures viz. focal spray, mass and contact blood surveys. Part of the Kheri unit entered into the consolidation phase in 1966-67, under which spray operations were withdrawn and only surveillance is carried out. From 1970-71, the entire unit is in the consolidation phase. The Singahi sub-unit was in the attack phase in 1975. With this phase, the national malaria eradication programme became the part of the district health scheme under the overall charge of deputy chief medical officer. The erstwhile anti-malaria staff continues to look after the eradication work. The following statement gives information about the malaria cases detected during the last five years :

Year	No. of blood smears examined		Malaria cases detected	
	Kheri unit	Singahi sub-unit	Kheri unit	Singahi sub-unit
1970	1,85,403	27,574	574	892
1971	1,15,995	26,883	102	228
1972	1,34,057	31,096	147	80
1973	1,80,216	27,447	12	14
1974	1,35,111	29,514	277	170

### **Family Planning**

In 1974, there were about 17 family planning centres in the district. This family planning scheme in the district is supervised by the deputy chief medical officer, with the assistance of other staff at the centres. The tahsilwise location of the family planning centres in 1974 was as follows :

Tahsil	Location
Lakhimpur	Aliaganj Bhira Bijua
Muhamdi	Gola Haiderabad Maigalganj Maksoodpur Mitauli Muhamdi Pasgawan
Nighasan	Dhaurahra Isanagar Munda Nighasan Palia Ramian Behar Singahi

The medical officers of primary health centres perform vasectomy operations while distribution of contraceptives is also done at such centres. The performance under this scheme in the district in recent years was as follows :

Year	Vasectomy operations	Tubectomy operations	I.U.C.P. Insertions (loop insertions)
1970	298	26	827
1971	890	98	1,124
1972	2,426	108	1,505

## CHAPTER XVII

### OTHER SOCIAL SERVICES

#### SOCIAL WELFARE

After the attainment of Independence, the government, with a new emphasis on the welfare of the people has chalked out many schemes to cater to the welfare of the working classes. The labour welfare programmes aim at providing the labour community with such benefits as guaranteeing them minimum wages, social and old age security, and facilities for collective bargaining through recognised trade unions, medical treatment, maternity care, regulated working hours, payment of bonus, payment of compensation, regulated wages, a minimum standard of lighting, ventilation, safety in workshops and factories, canteens, provision for recreational activities, leave, holidays, housing, holiday homes etc. Settlement of industrial disputes is done by the conciliation board functioning through its regional headquarters at Lucknow.

#### **Labour Welfare Legislations**

After the British had firmly established themselves in 1856 a number of statutes were enforced for the amelioration of the conditions of the working classes. The first of such Acts was the Employers' and Workmen's (Disputes) Act, 1860, aiming at speedy disposal of disputes between the employers and the employees.

This Act was modified by the Trade Disputes Act, 1929, which also provided for the establishment of a court of enquiry and conciliation board for examining and settling the disputes. These measures, however, were insufficient, if not half-hearted, and they did not go far to benefit the workmen. In 1947, the Government of India enacted the Industrial Disputes Act, following which the State Government also passed the U.P. Industrial Disputes Act, 1947. The industrial disputes which do not get resolved by persuasion, mediation or negotiation are referred to the industrial tribunal or the labour court, of which the decision is binding on the parties.

To improve the working conditions of the industrial workers, various other pieces of legislations were passed by the Central as well as the State Governments. The first Indian Factories Act, 1881, was enacted, after a spell of labour unrest in 1877. It provided certain measures for the welfare of child labour and prohibited employment of children below seven years in age, and of those between 7 years and 12 years in age for more than 11 hours. The next legislation about factories was passed in 1891, providing for better working conditions in factories. The Factory Act of 1911, limited the hours of work, provided for an interval between them, introduced certain measures for workers' safety and prohibited employment of women by night. On the recommendations of the royal commission for labour, the Factory Act, 1934, was enacted to extend

further the facilities available to the workers. It made the provincial government responsible for the administration of the Act. A chief inspector of factories was appointed in the provinces, under the Act. The Factories Act of 1948, which replaced all the former Factories Acts, regulated working conditions including maximum hours of work, leave with wages, safeguards for health, provision of hygienic environment, and amenities like first-aid appliances, canteens, creches and cool drinking water near the places of work.

The fourth decade of this century is a landmark in the history of the industrialization of this district. Three large-scale sugar mills were established at Agra, Gola Gokaran Nath and Palia Kalan employing a large number of workers.

After Independence in 1947, the government took keener interest in promoting the welfare of the working classes. The bulk of labour legislation has, therefore been enacted after that year. While the earlier Acts, e.g. the Indian Boilers Act, 1923, the Workmen's Compensation Act, 1923, the Indian Trade Unions Act, 1926, the Payment of Wages Act, 1936, the Employment of Children's Act, 1938, the U.P. Maternity Benefits Act, 1938, and the Industrial Employment (Standing Orders) Act, 1947, are still in operation, with certain amendments made from time to time to suit the changing industrial pattern. The laws enacted after 1947 are the U.P. Industrial Disputes Act, 1947, the Factories Act, 1948, the Motor Transport Workers Act, 1961, the Uttar Pradesh (Industrial Establishment National Holidays) Act, 1961, the U.P. Dookan Aur Vanijya Adhistan Adhiniyam, 1962, and the Payment of Bonus Act, 1965.

In 1973-74, there were about 8,413 labourers employed in 44 registered factories in the district. They enjoyed all welfare facilities provided under the various Central and State enactments and welfare schemes, enforced in the district like regulated working conditions, minimum standard of lighting, ventilation and safety, leave, holidays, medical treatment, regulated and timely payment of wages, bonus, compensation, maternity benefits, labour welfare centre, hygienic housing, canteens, and recreational facilities.

At present three labour inspectors posted in the district look after the enforcement of the various labour welfare legislations, carry out inspections, enquire into complaints, try to prevent strikes and lock-outs, and prosecute defaulting employers. They could make as many as 256 inspections in 1973, resulting in 41 prosecutions under the U.P. Dookan Avam Vanijya Adhistan Adhiniyam and 5 under the Minimum Wages Act, 1948.

The Workmen's Compensation Act, 1923, lays down that an employer is liable to pay compensation if personal injury is caused to a worker in an accident arising out of and in the course of employment and also if the worker, due to such injury or for reasons connected with his job, contracts any disease mentioned in the Act.

The district magistrate is the commissioner for workmen's compensation and for the administration of the Act in the district.

The following statement shows the number of cases and amount sanctioned during the last five years in cases of temporary and permanent disabilities :

Year	Total disablement cases			Disablement cases		
	No. of cases	Compensa- tion paid (in Rs)	Permanent		Temporary	
			No. of cases	Amount of compensa- tion paid (in Rs)	No. of cases	Amount of compensa- tion paid (in Rs)
1969	1	7,000	2	2,548	86	500
1970	—	—	3	1,990	34	361
1971	—	—	2	1,200	43	1,384
1972	1	7,000	2	840	89	1,428.
1973	1	7,000	1	1,060	20	578

### Trade Unions

The trade unions are corporate bodies which work for the interest of their members and aim at furthering good relations between employers and employees. They strive to improve the economic, moral and social conditions of labour, ensure payment of fair wages, and provision of healthy living and working conditions and proper medical and educational facilities to their children. There were 9 trade unions in the district on December 30, 1974, registered with registrar of trade unions, U.P., Kanpur, under the Indian Trade Unions Act, 1926. The following statement gives other important information about them :

Name of trade union	Date of registration	Registration number	No. of members
Shakkar Mazdoor Union, Gola, District Kheri	25.7.58	1,188	N.A.
Shakkar Mill Mazdoor Sangh, Aira, District Kheri	25.2.61	2,222	145
Chini Mill Mazdoor Union, Aira, District Kheri	11.2.71	8,596	825
Shakkar Mill Mazdoor Sangh, Gola Gokarannath, District Kheri	27.5.72	3,785	172
Zila Press Karamchari Sangh, District Kheri	15.6.72	3,801	N.A.
Labour Union, Gola Gokarannath, District Kheri	19.6.72	8,818	266
Sharda Workers Association, Palia Kalan and Gola Gokarannath, District Kheri	31.7.73	8,990	105
Gur Avam Khandsari Mazdoor Union, Gola Gokarannath, District Kheri	4.8.73	8,993	97
Halsi Oil Workers Association, Gola Gokarannath, District Kheri	28.8.74	4,164	N.A.

### Holiday Home

A holiday home was established at Mussoorie in the year 1962 out of the U.P. sugar and power alcohol industries labour welfare and development fund. In the beginning, the workers of the sugar factories only were allowed the benefit of staying in this home; later on the amenity was extended to workers employed in other factories also, during the crushing season when sugar factories usually work, namely, November 16, to March 15, every year. The workers of sugar factories go to the home in their off season only.

### OLD-AGE PENSION SCHEME

The old-age pension scheme was introduced in the district in November, 1957. It provided for social security and pecuniary relief to the men and women aged 70 years or more having no source of income or relatives to support them. This age limit of 70 years was reduced to 65 years in March, 1965. The professional beggars have been excluded from the scope of this scheme which was further liberalised in 1962, and 1965, so as to make persons with monthly incomes not exceeding Rs 15 eligible for the pension, and the age of eligibility for widows, cripples or persons whom physical infirmity had rendered totally incapable of earning a living was reduced from 65 years to 60 years. The amount of pension was increased from Rs 15 to 20 in March, 1965. Again from January, 1972, it has been raised to Rs 30 per month. The pension is paid quarterly through money-orders.

The scheme is administered by the labour commissioner, U.P., and pensions are sanctioned after verification of age and other details given by the applicants; through the district magistrate. The tahsilwise number of beneficiaries under this scheme is given below :

Tahsil	Total number of beneficiaries in the district up to 31.12.74	Male	Female
Lakhimpur	51	23	28
Muhamdi	11	8	8
Nighasan	6	3	3
<b>Total</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>39</b>

### PROHIBITION

In pursuance of the State Government's policy to discourage use of intoxicants by the people, a prohibition publicity and social uplift organization was setup in the district in 1947. Prohibition was scrapped in the State on December 1, 1962, as a step to discourage illicit manufacture and sale of liquor. There is a prohibition and uplift committee in the district, with the district magistrate as its president. Members include all legislators of the district, presidents and chairman of all local bodies, president of the district bar association, several officers who have wide public contacts and also some nominated members. The purpose of the committee is to determine ways and means for minimising the illicit use of liquor. A *pracharak* has been appointed for this purpose. The committee tries to educate people about the hazards of drinking by organising meetings, distribution of pamphlets and film shows.

### ADVANCEMENT OF THE SCHEDULED CASTES AND OTHER BACKWARD CLASSES

The welfare programmes for the amelioration of the conditions of the Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, Denotified Tribes and Other Backward Classes were undertaken by the Harijan Sahayak department in 1948. A district Harijan welfare officer was posted in the district

in 1957. His designation was changed to the district Harijan and social welfare officer in 1961. Earlier, the activities relating to the social, economic and educational betterment of the Scheduled Castes and Other Backward Classes of the district were looked after by the Harijan welfare supervisor under the guidance of the district by planning officer.

There is a district Harijan and social welfare committee functioning in the district with the district magistrate as its president, the district Harijan and social welfare officer as its secretary and all the members of the Vidhan Sabha, Lok Sabha and Vidhan Parishad representing the district, the Adhyaksha, Zila Parishad, the chairman, municipal board, Lakhimpur, the district inspector of schools and a few social workers of the district as its members. All welfare activities under different schemes, except agriculture, are implemented with concurrence of this society. For the uplift of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, the government has passed pieces of legislation like the Untouchability (Offences) Act, 1955, the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Orders (Amendment) Act, 1956, to enable them Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes to obtain a proper place in society.

Financial assistance is also given to the Scheduled Castes and Other Backward Classes of the district for their economic, social and educational progress. The following statement gives an account of the assistance provided by the government during the Second, Third and Fourth Five-year Plans :

Details of activities (State Government)	II Five-year Plan		III Five-year Plan		IV Five-year Plan	
	No. of beneficiaries	Expenditure	No. of beneficiaries	Expenditure	No. of beneficiaries	Expenditure
Construction of houses	29	14,650	107	84,600	66	66,000
Development of cottage industries	70	17,500	573	1,42,047	207	82,707
Wells and hand-pumps	51	25,600	51	51,064	182	58,623
Agricultural development	41	14,700	819	1,24,831	78	81,920

The government have also awarded a number of scholarships to students belonging to the Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Other Backward Classes. During the year 1973-74, financial assistance amounting to Rs 97,906 and Rs 2,82,668 was accorded by the State and Central Governments respectively and about 2,490 students received scholarships in the same year. Details of the assistance rendered by the State and Central Governments to the Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Other Backward Classes is given in Statement I at the end of the chapter.

#### CHARITABLE ENDOWMENT

Three trusts and endowments in the district duly registered with the treasurer, charitable endowments, Uttar Pradesh, Allahabad, under the Charitable Endowment Act, 1890, function mainly for charitable and other purposes.

The following statement given an account of the endowments :

Name of trust/endowment	Year of registration	Annual income (in Rs)	Objects
Maharani Surat Kumari, Charitable Endowment	18.4.1927	7,341	Award of scholarships to meritorious student
Bilowi Memorial Fund, Lakhimpur Kheri	26.9.1936	817	Maintenance of gardens, buildings and libraries
Rani Bijay Raj Kunwar Endowment Trust	25.1.1938	1,524	Maintenance of dharmashalas and temples

### Waqfs

**Shia**—There are 6 *waqfs* in the district, registered with the Shia central board of *waqfs*, U.P., Lucknow created mainly for religious, educational and charitable purposes. A brief account of these *waqfs* is being given below :

Name of <i>waqf</i>	Date of foundation	Founder	Annual income (in Rs)	Objects
Khan Bahadur Syed Raza Husain	8.11.1918	K.B. Syed Raza Husain	694	wholly for religious and charitable purposes
Sajjad Mirza and Musammat Ameer Begum alias Waqf Begum alias Sajjadah (Husainia Muhamla Qaziana Sitapur)	24.11.1922	Sajjad Mirza and Musammat Ameer Begum	N.A.	-do-
Syed Abul Qasim	14.10.1927	Syed Abul Qasim	1,500	-do-
Musannimat Ummatul Fatema	14.10.1927	Musannimat Ummatul Fatema	120	-do-
Syed Ikhlaq Husain Imambara located at Bhectar (Muhamdi) Qasba Muhamdi	4.8.1985	Syed Ikhlaq Husain Waqf by user founded by kings of Avadh	182 1,500	-do- -do-

**Sunni**—There are 46 *waqfs* registered with the Sunni central *waqfs* board, U.P., Lucknow. The main ones are given below :

Name of <i>waqf</i>	Date of foundation	Name of founder	Investment	Annual income (in Rs)	Objectives
1	2	3	4	5	6
Waqf Fatima Bibi	26.9.24	Fatima Bibi	Landed property	9083	For the maintenance of Jama Masjid Lakhimpur
Dargah Haji Imam Baksh	20.11.40	Noor Mohammad and others	Landed property	829	For the maintenance of Dargah

(Continued)

1	2	3	4	5	■
Waqf Mashriqui Begum	27.7.43	Mashriqui Begum	House and landed property	4,368	Religious and educational purposes
Waqf Madarsai Islamia Qasimia	17.8.47	Haji Karim Baksh	Landed property	1,479	Educational purposes
Waqf Qadir Khan	16.1.63	Qadir Khan	Landed property	290	Religious and educational purposes
Waqf Dargah Chiheda Mian	—	—	House and landed property	—	For the maintenance of Dargah

### WELFARE OF EX-SERVICEMEN

For the welfare of ex-servicemen there is a District Soldiers', Sailors', and Airmen's board which was established in the district in 1960. It works under the control and supervision of the director, soldiers welfare, U.P. The district magistrate is *ex officio* the chairman of the board at the district level. The work of the board is supervised by a secretary who is a paid employee and, usually, an ex-serviceman, as elsewhere. The board provides various facilities to ex-servicemen and their families and assists in their rehabilitation, release of pensions, scholarships and relief grants, obtaining for them employment, medical treatment, settlement of accounts, permits for controlled commodities and taking steps for the settlement of their cases.

The assistance rendered to the ex-servicemen during the last five years, is given in the following statement :

Assistance rendered	1970	1971	1972	1973	1974
Educational facilities	12	51	25	27	41
Medical facilities	7	9	12	15	20
Sugar-cane concessions	58	62	66	70	100
Land allotment	1	2	4	100	—
Cash awards grants	—	4	—	3	3
Pensions	6	8	10	12	14
Discharge cases	12	10	—	4	4
Controlled goods allotment	40	45	38	86	88

**STATEMENT I**  
**Reference Page No. 248\***

*Assistance rendered to Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Other Backward Classes*

Class benefited	IInd Plan	IIIrd Plan	No. benefited/Amount in Rs		1976-77
			1966-67 to 1968-69	IV plan	
<b>By State Government :</b>					
Scheduled Castes	426/ 24,810	1,566/ 85,921	1,809/ 1,13,437	4,902/ 3,08,426	1,894/ 2,89,762
Scheduled Tribes	—	—	140/ 3,500	1,667/ 60,000	222/ 8,000
Other Backward Classes	259/ 14,755	348/ 20,189	505/ 31,918	1,382/ 93,586	1,031/ 1,69,125
<b>By Central Government :</b>					
Scheduled Castes	—	131/ 58,576]	606/ 2,09,391	1,875/ 8,24,906	631/ 4,02,361
Scheduled Tribes	—	34/ 3,086	84/ 3,996	446/ 60,330	135/ 11,408
					426/ 28,800
					88/ 11,082

# CHAPTER XVIII

## PUBLIC LIFE AND VOLUNTARY SOCIAL SERVICE ORGANISATIONS

### REPRESENTATION OF DISTRICT IN STATE LEGISLATURE

#### **Vidhan Sabha (Legislative)**

The first general elections to the Vidhan Sabha and the Lok Sabha, held on the basis of the Constitution of India, enforced on 26th January, 1950, took place in 1952.

At the first general elections to the Vidhan Sabha the district was divided into four constituencies, viz., Nighasan-cum-Lakhimpur (North), Lakhimpur (South), Muhamdi (East), and, Muhamdi (West). The first two constituencies were to return two members each, and the remaining ones had to send one representative each. The number of electors was 4,90,700. The statement given below reveals the results of this poll :

Party/Independents	No. of candidates	Seats won	Votes polled
Bhartiya Jan Sangh	■	—	26,847
Indian National Congress	■	6	1,14,444
Kisan Mazdoor Praja Party	1	—	5,992
Scheduled Castes Federation	1	—	6,950
Socialist	4	—	14,406
Uttar Pradesh Praja Party	8	—	19,188
Independents	7	—	56,847

For the general elections of 1957 to the Vidhan Sabha, the district was divided into 8 single member constituencies of Kheri, Nighasan and Dhaurahra, and two double member constituencies of Muhamdi and Srinagar with one seat each reserved for the Scheduled Castes candidates. The performance of the candidates is indicated in the statement given below :

Party/Independents	No. of candidates	Seats won	Votes polled
Bhartiya Jan Sangh	7	2	1,09,470
Indian National Congress	0	—	1,33,618
Praja Socialist Party	5	5	80,845
Independents	8	—	82,889

In the 1962 elections to the Vidhan Sabha the district was divided into seven single member constituencies of Nighasan, Dhaurahra, Kheri, Srinagar, Haidarabad, Paila and Muhamdi, the latter two being reserved for the Scheduled Caste candidates; 44.6 per cent of the electorate, numbering 6,06,874 persons, participated in the poll. An idea of the poll may be had from the following statement :

Party/Independents	No. of candidates	Seats won	Votes polled
Bhartiya Jan Sangh	7	2	68,891
Communist	5	—	8,228
Indian National Congress	7	5	1,10,087
Praja Socialist Party	7	—	55,704
Swatantra	5	—	6,807
Independents	6	—	8,642

At the elections of 1967, the number of constituencies in the district was raised to eight, all of them being single member constituencies. These were Muhamdi, Haidarabad, Lakhimpur, Bankeganj, Phul Behar, Nighasan, Dhaurahra, and Behta. The number of electors was 8,22,720. Other particulars are tabulated below :

Party/Independents	No. of candidates	Seats won	Valid votes polled
Bhartiya Jan Sangh	8	4	1,28,555
Communist	1	—	1,080
Indian National Congress	8	8	1,29,101
Praja Socialist Party	6	1	69,888
Republican	2	—	6,792
Samyukta Socialist Party	1	—	8,039
Swatantra	2	—	8,868
Independents	11	—	29,343

The Vidhan Sabha constituted after the 1967 general elections was dissolved on February 25, 1968, and the State came under the President's rule. For the mid-term poll held in February, 1969, the district was divided into seven constituencies namely, Muhamdi, Bankeganj, Haidarabad, Lakhimpur, Phul Behar, Nighasan and Dhaurahra, the first two being reserved for the Scheduled Caste candidates. The total number of the electorate participating in the poll was 7,54,858. The results were as follows :

Party/Independents	No. of candidates	Seats won	Votes polled
Bhartiya Jan Sangh	6	—	78,469
Bhartiya Kranti Dal	7	—	41,505
Communist	3	—	8,921
Indian National Congress	7	7	1,83,197
Mazdoor Parishad	2	—	1,718
Praja Socialist Party	5	—	30,661
Republican	8	—	11,078
Independents	4	—	4,202

On 1st October, 1970, the President's rule was again imposed on the State but it was withdrawn on 18th October, 1970. The next ministry was formed by the Samyukta Vidhayak Dal. This ministry also did not last for more than five months.

In the wake of large scale defections the Congress (R) managed to muster absolute majority in the Assembly and formed the government in April, 1971.

But in June, 1978, the Congress (R) ministry resigned and the State was placed under President's rule once again which was revoked in November, 1978 by the formation of ministry by the Congress (R).

For the 1974 elections, the constituencies in the district numbered seven, all single member ones. These were Muhamdi, Haidarabad, Palia, Lakhimpur, Srinagar, Nighosan and Dhaurahra. Of these the constituencies of Muhamdi and Palia Kalan were reserved for candidates of the Scheduled Castes. Details of the elections are given below :

Constituency	Total no. of electorate	Valid votes polled	Invalid votes polled	Total votes polled	Parties contesting	Votes secured
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Muhamdi	1,25,775	55,782	2,187	57,969	Bhartiya Jan Sangh (Elected) Bhartiya Kranti Dal Congress (O) Congress (R) Republican (Khobragade)	21,285 8,202 2,630 17,669 5,996
Haidarabad	1,14,822	56,825	2,144	58,969	Bhartiya Kranti Dal Congress(O) Congress(R) (Elected) Republican (Khobragade) Socialist Swatantra Independent Independent Independent	8,765 4,707 17,888 3,669 2,269 1,160 2,899 863 841 498

(Continued)

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Palia (Sche- duled Castes)	1,09,248	41,958	1,390	43,448	Bhartiya Jan Sangh	8,860
Lakhimpur	1,13,875	61,691	1,817	63,508	Bhartiya Kranti	
Srinagar	1,12,086	49,400	1,440	50,930	Dal	9,575
Dhauraha	1,84,661	78,015	2,881	80,396	Congress(O)	2,497
Nighasan	1,27,770	66,557	2,613	69,170	Congress(R)	15,177
					(Elected)	
					Republicanic (Khobragade)	3,225
					Swatantra	550
					Independent	1,443
					Independent	681
					Bhartiya Jan Sangh	17,685
					Bhartiya Kranti	
					Dal	9,087
					Congress(O)	2,190
					Congress(R)	25,888
					(Elected)	
					Swatantra	1,742
					Independent	2,888
					Independent	683
					Independent	480
					Independent	418
					Independent	881
					Independent	203
					Independent	101
					Bhartiya Jan Sangh	18,852
					(Elected)	
					Bhartiya Kranti	
					Dal	2,476
					Congress(O)	1,686
					Congress(Rt)	17,229
					C.P.I. (Marx- ist)	1,507
					Independent	5,218
					Independent	2,018
					Independent	523
					Bhartiya Jan Sangh	2,767
					Bhartiya Kranti	
					Dal	2,464
					Congress(R)	80,746
					Independent	42,088
					(Elected)	
					Bhartiya Jan Sangh (Elected)	26,806
					Congress(O)	6,486
					Congress(R)	19,571
					Independent	7,426
					Independent	6,258

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**Lok Sabha (House of the People)**

For the general elections of 1952 to the Lok Sabha the district formed part of two joint parliamentary constituencies, the Shahjahanpur (North)-cum-Kheri (East) and the Sitapur-cum-Kheri (West), each with two seats. Other particulars pertaining to these elections were as follows :

Name of constituency	Total no. of electorates	Valid votes	Invalid votes	Elected party
Kheri (East)	8,82,000	2,24,808	19,261	Congress (2 candidates)
Kheri (West)	1,58,700	56,079	4,711	Congress (2 candidates)

The number of votes secured by the winning candidates were 62,151 and 71,824 respectively in Kheri (East) where the Congress party had sponsored both the candidates, 18,700 and 12,658 in Kheri (West), where again the Congress secured both the seats. Of the two candidates from Kheri (West), one represented the Scheduled Castes.

For the 1957 elections to the Lok Sabha, the entire district was a single member constituency. Details regarding the elections were as follows :

Constituency	Total No. of electorates	Valid votes polled	Votes polled by winning candidate	other parties	Votes secured
Kheri (single member)	4,05,128	1,84,896	69,744 (Praja Socialist)	Bhartiya Jan Sangh Congress	82,889 52,818

Details regarding the 1962 elections to the Lok Sabha in the district were as follows:

Parties contesting	Votes secured	Constituency	Valid votes	Total electorate
Bhartiya Jan Sangh	85,691			
Communist	7,788			
Congress(Elected)	88,689	One (single member)	1,80,276	4,82,885
Praja Socialist	46,710			
Swatantra	6,408			

The following statement gives the particulars of the 1967 Lok Sabha elections in the district :

Constituency	Total No. of electorates	Parties con-testing	Votes secured	winning party
One Kheri (single member)	5,09,557	Bhartiya Jan Sangh Communist Congress Praja Socialist	76,022 7,816 77,869 68,006	Congress

The Lok Sabha constituted after the election of 1967 was dissolved on December 27, 1970 by a proclamation of the President of India. The mid-term parliamentary election was held in 1971 and the new Lok Sabha was constituted in March, 1971. The Congress had by this time been divided into sections Congress (N) led by Sri Nijalingappa, later designated as Congress (O), and, Congress (R) led by Sri Jagjivan Ram, now referred to simply as Congress. Particulars regarding the 1971 general elections to the Lok Sabha in this district were as follows :

Constituency	Total No. of electorates	Valid votes polled	Parties contesting	Votes secured	Winning party
Kheri (single member)	5,60,208	1,75,020	Congress(O) Congress(R) Independent	1,20,453 4,789 40,828	Congress(O)

### POLITICAL PARTIES

Important political parties in the district are mostly local units of all India organisations. A few parties, organised on the State level, also entered the contest during the different general elections. In due course of time such political parties merged with one or more political parties, either assuming new names, or, being further split into two or more political parties.

Following the division of the Indian National Congress in 1969-70, its sections came to be known as Congress (R) and the Congress (O). The parties contesting the elections in the district were, the Indian National Congress, the Congress (O), Jan Sangh, Praja Socialist party, the Communist Party of India, the Samyukt Socialist Party, the Bharatiya Kanti Dal, the Socialist Party, the Swatantra Party and the Republican Party. Each party has its own organisation at the district and regional levels. The primary units are entrusted with the propagation of the aims and objectives of the party during the election period.

### NEWSPAPERS AND PERIODICALS

#### Local Publications

The district brought out four Hindi weeklies in 1972, the oldest among them being the *Deepak*, published since 1952. Details regarding others are as below :

Hindi Periodical	No. of copies published	Date/year of first publication	Nature of Periodical
<i>Deepak</i>	N.A.	1952	News and current affairs
<i>Viplav</i>	2,000	1960	-Do-
<i>Ubharti Kirnen</i>	800	1969	-Do-
<i>Afro Asian Sandesh</i>	800	1968	-Do-

The following periodicals are published in the district but their copies are not in circulation *Deepak*, *Kheri Samachar Aage Badho*, *Budha Bharat*, *Bachchou Ki Pukar*, *Dharam Raj*, *Malley News* and *Udit Bhanu*.

English daily newspapers of all India and State circulation which are generally read in the district are *The Times of India*, the *Indian Express*, *The Hindustan Times*, *The Statesman*, *The Economic Times*, *The Pioneer*, and the *National Herald*. English weeklies, fortnightlies and monthlies which are popular in the district are the *Blitz*, *The Illustrated Weekly of India*, *Sports and Pastime*, the *Time*, the *Caravan*, *Filmfare*, *Picture-Post* and *Career and Courses*. All these are published outside the district.

Hindi dailies published outside the district and generally in demand in the district are, the *Hindustan*, the *New Bharat Times*, the *Nav Jeevan*, and the *Swatantra Bharat*. Popular weeklies, fortnightlies and monthlies usually read in the district are *Dharm Yug*, *Saptahik Hindustan*, *Sarita*, *Nav Neet*, *Neeharika*, *Kadambini*, *Man-har Kahaniya*, *Nandan*, *Champak*, *Parag*, *Madhuri*, *Urvashi*, and *Sushma*.

The Urdu dailies, weeklies and monthlies popular in the district are *Tej*, *Qaumi Awaaz*, *Biswin Sadi* and *Shama*.

Numerous publications of the Central and State Governments and diplomatic missions; various cultural, political, religious and spiritual publications, both national and international, brought out by the various agencies of the U.N.O., also find their way into the district.

#### VOLUNTARY SOCIAL SERVICE ORGANISATIONS

The district branch of the *Zila Apradh Nirodhak Samiti*, established in 1954, aims at preventing the incidence of crime and reducing it to the minimum possible. Other objectives of this organisation include rehabilitation of released juvenile and adult prisoners, providing assistance to those under imprisonment, laying emphasis on prohibition and prevention of immoral traffic in women.

The local unit of the *Prantiya Vikas Dal*, formerly known as the *Prantiya Rakshak Dal*, was established in 1948, as a voluntary organisation under the aegis of the planning department. The activities of the Dal are mostly confined to the rural area where special attention is paid towards educating the illiterate. Other activities include inducing people to contribute to *shramdaan* or voluntary labour besides setting up units like *Yuvak Mangal Dals* and *Bal Mangal Dals*, their number in 1974 being 677 and 377 respectively, with 8,649 and 4,426 members respectively. These organisations primarily strive for the welfare of youth and children in the district. Games and sports form an important part of the activities of these organisations.

An important social service institution is the Kheri ladies club, established in 1937 as a registered body, it aims at promoting the welfare of women and children, arranging facilities for their education and recrea-

## ORGANISATIONS

tion, providing suitable work to needy women and running adult literacy classes for them in the rural and urban areas of the district. The organisation, at present, has a total membership of 90, the managing body comprising an executive body headed by a president. It runs a condensed course for adults and eight centres for social welfare work in the district. Poor and needy women are trained in crafts like sewing and embroidery, the articles produced being duly marketed. During the 1971 war this organisation donated goods, and articles worth Rs 17,000 to the army authorities. It also runs a ladies' reading-room besides organising cultural programmes from time to time.

The local branch of the Rotary club was established on 18th November, 1957. The organisation primarily strives to promote humanitarian principles, to serve the needy, and, build up a world fellowship in furtherance of international understanding, goodwill and peace. Functioning as a non-registered body, it is affiliated to the Rotary international organisation. The local unit in the district is headed by a president, assisted by a secretary in addition to a board of directors. Its activities in the district include the establishment of blood bank in the district hospital, inauguration of a free, polio vaccination programme, and contributing towards community service projects.

The Dharmadarshan Samiti is an old voluntary organisation of the local traders, established in the early twenties. Its activities primarily aim at supporting educational institutions of the district, nearly all of them receiving substantial grants from this Samiti. It also maintains a *gaushala* or cow-house and loans out utensils and other things required on occasions of marriages at a very nominal rent or even without charging any rent.

## CHAPTER XIX

### PLACES OF INTEREST\*

#### **Aliganj (pargana Bhur, tahsil Lakhimpur)**

The place which is an important grain market, is located in Lat.  $28^{\circ} 7'$  N. and Long.  $80^{\circ} 36'$  E., at a distance of about 26 km. north-west of Lakhimpur. The nearest town from Aliganj is Gola Gokarannath, which is 13 km. south-west.

Aliganj contains a temple dedicated to Hanumanji, two mosques, a bus station, a junior Basic school, a senior Basic school, a girls' *pathshala*, an Ayurvedic dispensary, a family planning centre, a cattle pound and a veterinary hospital. The place is electrified. It falls in the Bankeyganj development block and is the headquarters of both a *gaon sabha* and a *nyaya panchayat*. The population of Aliganj is 1,795 and the area 417 ha.

#### **Aurangabad (pargana Aurangabad, tahsil Muhamdi)**

The village which gives its name to the pargana is situated in Lat.  $27^{\circ} 47'$  N. and Long.  $80^{\circ} 21'$  E., at a distance of 27 km. south-west of Muhamdi. Aurangabad is 39 km. from Lakhimpur.

The place was founded by Nawab Saiyid Khurram during the reign of Aurangzeb, from whom it derived its name. The nawab also built here a brick palace and a fort. Both are now in ruins. To the north-west of Aurangabad is a graveyard where the British fugitives from Shahjahanpur were massacred and buried during the struggle of 1857-58.

A bazar is held on Fridays and Saturdays. Aurangabad is electrified and possesses 2 senior Basic schools, one each for boys and girls, a junior Basic school for girls, a higher secondary school, a health centre, an allopathic dispensary, a maternity and child welfare centre, a family planning centre, a cattle pound and a stockman centre. The place has a population of 4,621 and an area of 982 ha.

The village is included in the Pasgawan development block. It is the headquarters of both a *nyaya panchayat* and a *gaon sabha*.

#### **Barwar (pargana Pasgawan, tahsil Muhamdi)**

A village of considerable historical interest, Barwar is located in Lat.  $27^{\circ} 50'$  N. and Long.  $80^{\circ} 17'$  E., at a distance of about 16 km. south-east of Muhamdi and 44 km. from the district head-

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\*The figures of population and area in this chapter are based on the census of 1971

quarters. It formerly gave its name to an enormous pargana which comprised almost the entire Muhamdi tahsil and a large portion of the Hardoi district. The territory was broken up in 1739 on the death of Ibad-ullah Khan, the talukdar of Muhamdi, and Barwar remained the headquarters of a small pargana till 1869, when it was amalgamated with the Pasgawan pargana. Barwar figures prominently in the district history as being the headquarters of the great Saiyid family, the descendants of Sadr Jahan of Pihani. It contains the ruins of a brick fort built by Nawab Muqtadi Khan in the time of Aurangzeb as well as two mosques and two temples. Barwar was held by the British from 1785 till the first regular Settlement, when it was granted to Iradat Muhammad, who subsequently sold it. The population of the village is 5,413 and the area 588 ha.

Barwar possesses a junior Basic school for boys and another for girls, a senior Basic school for boys, an allopathic dispensary, a maternity and child welfare centre, a cattle pound and a stockman centre. Market days are Wednesdays, Fridays and Sundays. There exist two *khandsari* factories in the village.

Barwar is the seat of *gaon* and *nyaya* panchayats, and is included in the Pasgawan development block.

#### Bhira (pargana Bhur, tahsil Lakhimpur)

This is the principal village of the northern half of the pargana lying in Lat.  $28^{\circ} 20'$  N. and Long.  $80^{\circ} 29'$  E., at a distance of 40 km. north of Gola Gokarannath and 56 km. north-west of Lakhimpur. A road connects it with Bijuwa on the south-east. The village is a railway station on the Mailani-Palia Kalan branch line of the north-eastern railway.

The place has developed into a prosperous centre of marketing paddy, wheat, jowar, *bajra*, gram, barley, pulses and sugar-cane. The population numbers 5,703 and the area is 2,457 ha.

Bhira which is included in the Bijuwa development block is the headquarters of a *gaon sabha* and of a *nyaya* panchayat both.

It has a police-station, a cattle pound, a health centre, an inspection house, a stockman centre, a hospital, a maternity and child welfare centre, a mosque, a temple, a junior Basic school, a senior Basic school and a higher secondary school besides a branch of the State Bank of India, and is electrified. Markets are held on every Wednesday and Sunday.

#### Bijuwa (paragana Bhur, tahsil Lakhimpur)

This village lies in Lat.  $28^{\circ} 16'$  N. and Long.  $80^{\circ} 36'$  E., on the junction of a road leading from Bhira to Dariabad and Khairigarh and another running northwards from Aliganj.

Bijuwa is connected by a road with Gola Gokarannath lying at a distance of 30 km. The place consists of several hamlets, and its northern portion is intersected by the Mahanayak Nala, a tributary of the Chauka, while along its southern boundary flows the Baraunche. There is a market which is held on Mondays and Thursdays.

Bijuwa possesses a junior Basic school, a higher secondary school, an allopathic dispensary, a veterinary hospital and a branch of a co-operative bank. The village has a population of 3,620 and an area of 1,877 ha.

The village is also the headquarters of a development block, inaugurated on April 1, 1962 which contains a population of 85,811 souls, spread over an area of 71,142 hectares with 79 *gaon sabhas* and 11 *nyaya* panchayats.

#### **Dhaurahra (pargana Dhaurahra, tahsil Nighasan)**

The headquarters of the pargana of the same name, it is a town standing on the south bank of the Sukhni river in the centre of the pargana. It lies in Lat. 28° N. and Long. 81° 05' E., on a road at a distance of about 39 km. from the tahsil and the district headquarters. Other roads connect it with Sisaiyan Kalan and Kardhaiya.

Dhaurahra is said to have derived its name from Deroha, a small ruined temple or Mata Sthan. Tradition has it that in ancient days, the place was the capital of a Pasi principality, which was overthrown by the Bisons. In 1782 it became famous as the place where its Rajput chief, Jeccha Singh, laid down his life fighting against Sitel Prasad, the *nazim* of Khairabad.

During the freedom struggle of 1857-58, the British fugitives from Shahjahanpur and Muhamadi, escaping towards Lucknow, sought protection of the raja of Dhaurahra, but as he made them over to the liberators, he was tried subsequently and hanged by the British. His estate was confiscated. At a distance of about four furlongs from Dhaurahra is Rambati, a spot where Tulsi das is believed to have stayed for some years and planted a *bargad* tree. Rambati has a temple dedicated to Ram, and contains a manuscript copy of *Balkanda* of *Ramcharitra Manas*, said to be about three centuries old.

The place was declared a town under Act XX of 1856, on February 3, 1876, and raised to a municipality in September, 1881, but eight years later it reverted to its previous status in August, 1889. The population of the town is 9,921 and the area 1.4 sq. km.

Dhaurahra is electrified and possesses 2 junior Basic schools, a senior Basic school, a higher secondary school, a veterinary hospital, a dispensary, a health centre, a family planning centre, a mosque and a police-station. A market is held on Mondays and Wednesdays.

It is the headquarters of a development block which started functioning from April 1, 1958. The block has an area of 87,089 hectares, a population of 72,676 persons, 51 *gaon sabhas* and 7 *nyaya* panchayats.

### Dudhwa National Park (pargana Palia, tahsil Nighasan) .

Dudhwa, the seat of a national park is connected with Delhi and Lucknow both by rail and road. From Delhi its distance is 430 km. by either route. It is 215 km. from Lucknow by a road which passes through Sitapur, Kheri, Nighasan and Palia. Its distance from Lucknow by the road which branches off from the road earlier mentioned after Kheri and passes through Gela Gokarannath, Khutar Mailani, Bhira and Palia is 260 km. Palia, the nearest town from the park, is 10 km. distant from it.

Dudhwa National Park was originally declared a sanctuary in 1968, with an area of 212 sq. km. to provide suitable conditions for the rehabilitation of the swamp deer and other species of wild life. The State Government has since added to the area of the sanctuary which is now 490 sq. km. It was raised to the status of a national park on February 1, 1977. It had about 49 tigers, 4 panthers, 200 sambar, 2,000 swamp deer, 2,000 spotted deer, 400 hog deer, 200 barking deer, 1,000 wild boars, 70 sloth bears, 10 black buck, 100 nilgais, 15 crocodiles and 22 wild elephants according to a recent estimate. There are also about 400 species of birds, and numerous reptiles and fish in it. Other animals, including the Indian ratel, jackal, fox, hyena, hare, and porcupine, are found in large numbers.

The best period of the year to visit the national park at Dudhwa is between November and May where visitors are advised to reach the place before sunset. Accommodation for the tourist is available at the forest rest houses at Daulhwa, Sathiana, Sohraiur, Bankatti, Bellaraien, Fort, Bellapurua, and Changa. Mattresses, pillows, blankets, hot water, fire-wood, and towels are also supplied at the Daulhwa and Sathiana rest houses. Arrangements for boarding have been made at the Dudhwa, Sathiana, Bellaraien and Bankatti rest houses where both vegetarian and non-vegetarian meals are served.

There is a dispensary within the park. The nearest hospital, post-office, bank and petrol pump are located at Palia.

### Firozabad (pargana Firozabad tahsil Nighasan)

This village, which gives its name to the pargana, is situated in Lat.  $27^{\circ} 49'$  N. and Long.  $81^{\circ} 15'$  E., in the south-east corner of the district, at a distance of about 10 km. by road, south-east of Isanagar, and 29 km. from Dhurahra. Its distance from Lakhimpur is 58 km.

The place is said to have been founded by Sultan Firuz Shah Tughluq while on his way to Bahraich.

Firozabad has a junior Basic school. A market is held here on every Thursday and Sunday. It is the headquarters of a *nyaya* panchayat and a *gaon sabha* and falls in the Isanagar development block. The population of Firozabad is 1,291 which is spread over 362 ha.

### Gola Gokarannath (pargana Haidarabad, tahsil Muhamdi)

Gola Gokarannath or, more commonly, Gola, is picturesquely situated on some small hills in Lat.  $28^{\circ}5'$  N. and Long.  $80^{\circ}28'$  E., on the road leading from Lakhimpur to Muhamdi, at a distance of 85 km. north-west of Lakhimpur. From Gola, branch roads split north-west to Khutar Khas in Shahjahanpur, north to Bhira, and north-east to Aliganj. Gola is also connected by rail, the railway station being located less than a mile to the east of the place.

The place is of extreme antiquity. Originally it was a centre of Buddhism, traces of this religion are still to be seen in several bas-reliefs built into the temple walls and, in its vicinity, terra-cotta images of pure Buddhist types have been found from time to time.

To the east of the town lies the celebrated shrine of Gokarannath or Mahadeva and a big tank, around which are clustered the many smaller temples, *dharma-salas* and the monasteries of Goshains. The main temple stands lower than the surrounding ground, the lingam, standing in a well about four feet deep, is a round stone. It bears mark of a heavy blow, caused, according to one account, by the thumb of Ravana. There goes a story that Aurangzeb had attempted to pull up the stone with chains and elephants, but without avail, and that when the emperor had approached the spot, flames had burst out of the ground, and that the dismayed monarch had consequently endowed the shrine with extensive rent-free lands. The temple is supposed to be the central spot of a large tract of sacred ground. Four gates exist on the borders of this holy land, at an equal distance of 12 *kos* from the centre, at Deokali in the east, Shapur on the north, Mati in Shahjahanpur on the west and Barkhar on the south. At Deokali, there is Surajkund, a tank built in honour of the sun, where devotees assemble. Through one of these gates, all pilgrims are supposed to pass before approaching the shrine.

The *samadhis* of the Goshains are small structures with fluted cupolas, and are evidently taken from the pattern of Buddhist *stupas*. They are believed to be celibates who were interred in a sitting posture.

The ancient history of Gola is based on traditions. According to Goshains, when Ravana wanted to carry Mahadeva to Lanka (now Sri Lanka), the deity agreed to allow his image to be removed on condition that it should not touch the ground, otherwise it would remain at the spot where it came into terrestrial contact. Ravana lifted the image, set out on his mission but, on arriving at Gola, was obliged to entrust his charge to an Ahir boy for a few minutes. The boy grew tired and placed the stone on the ground, whence it remained, and Ravana on his return was unable to move it.

The origin of the tank and the brick cylinder in the centre, whence the water-supply is maintained, is said to be as follows: A young Brahmana girl happened one day to kill a calf and in horror at the deed, hastened to hang herself, choosing by chance, the tree that had grown over the stone image. By her action she disturbed the deity, who bade her leave him in peace and go dig in a spot hard by. She narrated the

experience to her relatives who helped her to dig and, after making a deep excavation, found the calf buried alive. This hole became the source of the tank. In 1980, however, a canal was constructed for supply of water to the tank. Gola is one of the most sacred places in the State, and is visited twice a year in Phalgun and Chaitra for a fortnight by about 1,50,000 devotees. Hundreds of pilgrims trek long distances on foot bringing Ganga water to propitiate the deity.

A market lies to the west of the town, where a flourishing trade in food-grains and sugar is carried on regularly. The main industrial establishment at Gola is the Hindustan Sugar Mills which has been in production since 1932. Gola is administered as a municipality. It has a population of 21,677 and an area of 10.88 sq. km. It is electrified and has 4 hospitals, 7 dispensaries, a family planning centre, a cattle pound, a veterinary hospital, 2 junior Basic schools, 8 senior Basic schools, 8 higher secondary schools, a degree college, 2 cinema houses, a reading-room, a public library, a police-station, 2 inspection houses, 2 dharmshalas, a branch each of the land development and co-operative banks.

Gola Gokarannath is the headquarters of the post-stage II Kumbhi development block which was inaugurated on April 1, 1960. The block contains an area of 86,910 hectares, a population of 1,14,004 souls, 81 gaon sabhas and 10 nyaya panchayats.

#### **Haidarabad (pargana Haidarabad, tahsil Muhamdi)**

This village, which gives its name to the pargana, is situated in Lat.  $28^{\circ} 8'$  N. and Long.  $80^{\circ} 25'$  E., at a distance of 5 km. from Gola Gokarannath, 21 km. from Muhamdi and 48 km. from Lakhimpur.

The place is said to have been founded by one Saiyid Huidur, and was in the possession of the Pihani Saiyids, who built a fort, very few remains of which now exist. It afterwards passed into the hands of the Abbans but on the confiscation of Lone Singh's property in 1858, it was bestowed on the raja of Pratapgarh. The bulk of the population is engaged in agriculture. A market is held here on every Monday and Friday. The village has 2 junior Basic schools, 2 senior Basic schools, a Unani dispensary, a family planning centre and a police-station. It is electrified. It falls in the Kumbhi development block. The population of Haidarabad is 2,168 and the area 296 ha.

#### **Iasanagar (pargana Firozabad, tahsil Nighasan)**

This village which was formerly the headquarters of the taluka of the Rajputs is situated in Lat.  $27^{\circ} 54'$  N and Long.  $80^{\circ} 13'$  E., at a distance of 48 km. east of Lakhimpur with which it is connected by a road. It is 54 km. distant from the tahsil headquarters.

The village, which clusters round the old and now dilapidated brick fort of the Chauhans, was in former days, surrounded by a bastioned wall. There is a local market which is held on Tuesdays and Fridays.

Isanagar has 2 junior Basic schools, a senior Basic school, a higher secondary school, a dispensary, a family planning centre and a police-station. The place has a population of 5,746 and an area of 822 ha.

It is also the headquarters of the Isanagar post-stage II development block, and was inaugurated on October 2, 1956. The block covers an area of 42,695 hectares, has a population of 93,177 persons and consists of 90 *gaon sabhas* and 11 *nyaya* panchayats.

#### **Kafara (pargana Dhaurara, tahsil Nighasan)**

The village lies in Lat.  $28^{\circ} 04'$  N. and Long.  $81^{\circ} 02'$  E., at a distance of 89 km. north-east of Lakhimpur on a road. Its distance from the tahsil headquarters is about 24 km. It is located on the high bank of the Sukhni, midway between the Chauka and the Kauriala rivers.

Kafara possesses a cattle pound, dating from 1892, a junior Basic school, an allopathic dispensary, a maternity and child welfare centre. Markets are held on Tuesdays and Sundays. The population of the village is 4,869 and the area 1,766 ha.

To the west of the village site on the edge of a *jhil*, stands the temple of Lilanath Mahadeva, with a masonry tank adjoining it. The place is of great local sanctity and a bathing fair is held on every Amavasya.

It falls in the Ramia Bihar development block. It is the headquarters of a *nyaya* panchayat and a *gaon sabha*.

#### **Kaimara (pargana-Kheri, tahsil Lakhimpur)**

The village is situated in Lat.  $27^{\circ} 58'$  N. and Long.  $80^{\circ} 38'$  E., on the road running from Lakhimpur to Gola Gokarannath, about 14 km. west of Lakhimpur and 13 km. south-east of Gola Gokarannath. It lies close to the Phardahan railway station which is approached by a small road. The river Jamwari forms the western boundary of the village. It was formerly a stronghold of the Chauhans. To the east of the village is a large artificial tank, and there are several Hindu temples, a mosque and an *idgah*. The bazar which is held on Tuesdays and Saturday is of local importance, and regular trade is carried on in wheat, rice, gram, ground-nut and sugar. The population of Kaimara numbers 2,904 and it is 246 ha. in area.

Kaimara is included in the Lakhimpur development block. It is the headquarters of both a *gaon sabha* and a *nyaya* panchayat. It has a junior Basic school, a girls' *pathshala*, a cattle pound, a veterinary hospital and a dispensary.

#### **Khairigarh (pargana Khairigarh, tahsil Nighasan)**

The place which gives its name to the pargana of the same name is located in Lat.  $28^{\circ} 21'$  N. and Long.  $80^{\circ} 50'$  E., on the left bank o

the Saryu river, at a distance of 8 km. north-west of Singahi Bhdaura with which it is connected by a road. Its distance from Nighasan and Lakhimpur is 18 km. and 55 km. respectively.

Khairigarh chiefly derives its importance from the old fort, known as Qila Ghori Shah, whose ruins stand about 5 km. away to the west. This stronghold, which tradition assigns to Shihab-ud-din Ghuri, was probably built by sultan Firuz Shah Tughluq, and in Akbar's time was considered one of the best in Hindostan. The structure was of burnt brick on foundations of huge *kankar* blocks, but little now remains visible. Outside the fort are fragments of ancient Hindu sculptures, and similar carved stones have been used in the construction of the shrine of Pir Sayed Ali, a saint in whose honour a fair is held annually in Chaitra. About 3 km. north-west of the fort there stood till 1885, when it was removed to the Lucknow museum, a life-size stone figure of a horse of crude workmanship, with a fragmentary inscription of Samudra Gupta incised on the neck. It was probably chiselled out to commemorate the horse sacrifice (*Ashvamedha*), but nothing else is known of its history, except that it points to an earlier civilization in Khairigarh than that of the Muslims.

The place has a junior Basic school. Khair trees from which *kattha* is produced, are found here in abundance. Its population is 2,194 and its area 604 ha.

It is included in the Nighasan development block and the Singahi Kalan *nyaya* panchayat.

#### **Kheri (pargana Kheri, tahsil Lakhimpur)**

The town which gives its name to the pargana and the district is situated in Lat.  $27^{\circ} 54'$  N. and Long.  $80^{\circ} 48'$  E., on a road, about 5 km. south-east of the district headquarters. Its distance by rail from Lucknow is 129 km. Close to the town on the west runs the Bareilly-Lucknow main line of the north-eastern railway, with Arnikhana railway station about half a mile distant from the main town.

The place is said to have derived its name from the *khair* trees which grew here abundantly. In early days Kheri was held by the Bisens, who were probably connected with the Munjhauli family who owned Dhaurahra during the 17th and 18th centuries A.D. Afterwards it was included in the vast possessions of the Saiyids of Barwar, one of whom, Saiyid Khurd, was buried here. His tomb was the finest building of his time in Kheri. After the fall of the Saiyids, the Chauhans gradually rose to power, although they were for a long time checked by the expanding dominion of Gours.

Kheri has been administered as a town area since February, 1876. Its population is 12,006 and its area 10.36 sq. km.

The town possesses a hospital, a dispensary, a family planning centre, a T.B. clinic, 2 junior Basic schools, 2 senior Basic schools, a police station, and a branch of the Allahabad Bank.

The important manufactures of the place are sugar, confectionery and alcohol. It is also famous for quality fire-works and *tazias*. The town is electrified. It has a number of temples, *imambaras* and mosques, one of which is said to have been built by Aurangzeb. Kheri falls in the Lakhimpur development block and is included in the Arni-khana *gaon sabha*.

### **Kukra (pargana Kukra, tahsil Lakhimpur)**

This village, which gives its name to pargana Kukra, is situated in Lat.  $28^{\circ} 12'$  N. and Long.  $80^{\circ} 27'$  E., at the junction of the roads running from Gola Gokarannath to Bhira in the north and from Lakhimpur to Pilibhit district in the east, at a distance of 15 km. from Gola Gokarannath and 16 km. south-east of Mailani. About 5 km. off, south-west of the village, lies the Kukra railway station. The village lands, for the most part, consist of low-lying rice fields, which bear good crops in favourable years.

Kukra was, for centuries, held by the Muslim Abbans. During the first half of the 19th century, the owner was Ali Baksh Khan, who built here a small brick fort. At the gate of the family burial-ground, there is a flat tomb, that of Ali Baksh Khan's father, who killed his brother in order to gain the estate, and who was buried in this place. Ali Baksh Khan himself murdered four surveyors who had been sent by the *chakladar* to measure the lands of Kukra. His property was confiscated and he himself was outlawed and afterwards murdered. The estate was then mortgaged to Raja Lone Singh of Mitali, who is said to have buried three elephant loads of gold *mohars* here after the capture of Mitali in 1858 by the British. It still has big resident ex-taluqdars who have taken to modernised farming after the abolition of zamindari. Kukra has a population of 4,683 which is spread over an area of 1,072 ha.

Kukra is electrified and has two temples, a mosque, a junior Basic school and a girls' *pathshala*. Market days are Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays.

It is included in the Bankeyganj development block and is the headquarters of a *gaon sabha* and a *nyaya panchayat*.

### **Lakhimpur (pargana Kheri, tahsil Lakhimpur)**

The city of Lakhimpur which stations the district headquarters is situated in Lat.  $27^{\circ} 57'$  N. and Long.  $80^{\circ} 47'$  E., on the high bank of the U1 river. On the south-west of the city is the railway station which is 134 km. distant from Lucknow. Roads run from Lakhimpur to Nighasan on the north, with branches to Khairigarh and Dhaura-hra; to Mailani and Pilibhit on the north-west; to Muhamdi on the west, the main road running parallel to the railway track upto Gola, and the shorter route running direct through Kaimahra to Mitali and Aurangabad in the south-west; to Ocl and Sitapur on the south; and to Bahramghat and Bahraich on the south east.

At Lakhimpur more than 50 buses and 10 trains stop daily to serve the passengers.

To the east and south-east of the city is the civil station, which was established in 1860. Lakhimpur has been administered as a municipality since 1868. Its population is 48,756 and its area 4.97 sq. km. For civic administration it is divided into 8 wards. The city itself is compactly built and lies between the civil lines and the road to Nighasan.

Markets are held daily except on Mondays. A large export trade is carried on in gur, jute, ground-nut, sugar and grain. Mustard oil, sugar and wooden articles are among the chief manufactures. There is a police-station, a sub-registrar's office, and all district and tahsil offices. Medical facilities are available at 8 hospitals, one T.B. clinic, a family planning centre, and a veterinary hospital. There are two degree colleges, nine higher secondary schools, nine senior Basic schools, 20 junior Basic schools, a short-hand school and two type-writing colleges. It has one branch each of the Punjab National Bank, the State Bank of India, the Allahabad Bank, and the Bank of Baroda, a co-operative and a land development bank. It has also three cinema houses, four public libraries, two public clubs, three *dharmashalas*, two inspection houses and two parks. There is a well-known temple of Sankata Devi here in whose honour a large assemblage takes place annually in Asadha when considerable trade is carried on. A mosque, known as Masjid Minar, was constructed here in 1980. This mosque contains a *musafirkhana*. Not far from the collectorate stand two memorial halls—the Willoughby memorial hall and the Raj Narain Misra memorial hall. There is a church also in the main market.

Lakhimpur is the headquarters of the Lakhimpur development block which was started on April 1, 1959. The block includes a population of 1,21,457 souls, an area of 39,288 hectares, 122 *gaon sabhas* and 15 *nyaya panchayats*.

#### **Magdapur (pargana Magdapur, tahsil Muhamdi)**

The headquarters of the pargana, Magdapur is a small village, lying in Lat. 27°54' N. and Long. 80°20' E., on a road, about 16 km. distant from Muhamdi and 40 km. away from Lakhimpur. The place was selected as the pargana headquarters on account of its central position.

Tradition has it that the place was founded by one Tula, a Gadaraya, about 875 years ago on the ruins of an ancient village. There was a small fort here in Nawabi days, but only a few of its remains viz. a mound and a grove now exist.

There is a junior Basic school and a senior Basic school here. The population of the village is 1,116 and its area 340 ha.

Magdapur is included in the Kumbhi development block. It is the headquarters of both a *gaon sabha* and a *nyaya panchayat*.

### **Maikalganj (pargana Aurangabad, tahsil Muhamdi)**

This small village is situated in Lat.  $27^{\circ} 43'$  N. and Long.  $80^{\circ} 21'$  E., on the road leading from Sitapur to Shahjahanpur about 7 km. south of Aurangabad. Parallel to this road runs the railway. Its distances from the tahsil headquarters and district headquarters are 27 km. and 45 km. respectively. To the east of the village is a large tank. The bazar which is now held on Thursdays and Sundays, was built by Hakim Mahdi Ali Khan, the *nazim* of Khairabad and Muhamdi from 1799-1820. It is a good *mandi* of oil-seeds, grain and sugar-cane.

Maikalganj possesses two junior Basic schools, a senior Basic school, a higher secondary school, a family planning centre and a police station. The population of the village is 2,257 and the area 212 ha.

It falls in the Pasgawan development block.

### **Mailani (pargana Kukra, tahsil Lakhimpur)**

The place stands in Lat.  $28^{\circ} 17'$  N. and Long.  $80^{\circ} 21'$  E., close to the Shahjahanpur border, about 61 km. distant by rail from Lakhimpur. Palia Kalan is the nearest town at a distance of 85 km. from Mailani. It is an important agricultural village which has derived importance by its location on the road from Shahjahanpur to Palia Kalan.

Mailani is a railway junction. The place is an important timber and grain market, logs, sleepers and charcoal being exported in large quantities. It has a branch of the State Bank of India, a dispensary, a health centre, a police-station, and a *dharmshala*. Markets are held twice a week. The village is electrified. Its population is 4,945 and its area 864 ha. It is included in the Bankeyganj development block.

### **Matera (pargana Dhaurahra, tahsil Nighausan)**

The village is situated in Lat.  $28^{\circ} 5'$  N. and Long.  $81^{\circ} 8'$  E., on a road about 26 km. south of Nighasan and 51 km. east of Lakhimpur, on the high bank of the Kauriala river, below which lies a large area of terai intersected by channels of the river. The interior of the village is cut up by several streams and water courses and to its north-west is an extensive lake. Prior to the abolition of zamindari in 1952, much of its area was held by the raja of Kapurthala, on whom it was bestowed after its confiscation in 1857 from the raja of Dhaurahra. Ahirs and other cultivating castes form the bulk of its inhabitants. The population of Matera is 1,596 and the area 8,860 ha.

There is a junior Basic school at Matera and a bazar which is held twice a week.

The village is included in the Ramia Bihar development block.

### Mitauli (pargana Kasta, tahsil Muhamdi)

This large village, famous in local annals as the headquarters of one of the main branches of the Ahbans and especially of Raja Lone Singh, is located in Lat.  $27^{\circ}49' N.$  and Long.  $80^{\circ}28' E.$ , at a distance of 32 km. south-west of Lakhimpur and about 8 km. south-west of Kasta.

Mitauli contains the remains of the ruined fort of Raja Lone Singh where the English fugitives from Sitapur sought refuge in 1857, although they were afterwards confined by the raja elsewhere.

Mitauli possesses a police-station, a cattle pound, a veterinary hospital, an allopathic dispensary, a child welfare and maternity centre, a family planning centre, 2 junior Basic schools and 2 senior Basic schools. Market days are Tuesday, Friday and Sunday. The population of the village is 7,100 and the area 2,027 ha.

Mitauli is also the headquarters of a post-stage II development block to which it gives its name. The block, which started functioning on October 2, 1955, has a population of 97,922 souls and an area of 39,915 hectares with 94 *gaon sabhas* and 11 *nyaya* panchayats.

### Muhamdi (pargana and tahsil Muhamdi)

The headquarters town of tahsil Muhamdi, it is situated in Lat.  $27^{\circ}57' N.$  and Long.  $80^{\circ}18' E.$ , at a distance of about 58 km. west of Lakhimpur. The Gomati flows about 5 km. to its east. From the eastern outskirts of the town branch roads run north-west to Pawayan and south-east to Aurangabad.

The history of Muhamdi is intimately connected with that of the Barwar Saiyids and their successors. The old brick fort, now in a ruinous condition, was built in the early years of the reign of Aurangzeb by Saiyid Muqtadi, the great-grandson of Sadr Jahan of Pihani. The town appears to date from the same period. It was improved and enlarged by Ali Akbar Khan, a Saiyid. He built the outer portions of the fort and the *imambara* in the days of Saadat Khan, Burhan-ul-Mulk, the first nawab of Avadh. Muhamdi was the residence of Hakim Mahdi Ali Khan, the *nazim* of Muhamdi and Khairabad from 1799-1820. He laid out a garden to the west of the town, known as Mahdi Bagh, and built a serai, a mosque and a bazaar known as Saditganj, named after nawab Saadat Ali Khan of Avadh. The nawab was very fond of the place and used to reside here frequently. He laid out another garden to the east of the town, at a distance of about a kilometre and a half from the centre of the place. His residence at Muhamdi is now in ruins.

At the time of the annexation of Avadh in 1856, Muhamdi was made the headquarters of a district, but with the shifting of it to Lakhimpur in 1859, Muhamdi lost its importance. It now contains the tahsil headquarters, which was formerly located in the *imambara*, but is now provided with its own building.

In 1879, Muhamdi town was raised to the status of a municipality, but 25 years later, on 1st April, 1904, it was reduced to the status of a notified area under Act I of 1900. It was again upgraded as a municipal town in 1957. Its population is 14,908 and its area 7.25 sq. km. Its main localities are Shuklapur, Debisthan, Sariyan, Bhiter Muhamdi, Lakhpur and Bazarganj. The local market is of considerable importance. The export trade is carried on chiefly in sugar, wheat, *gur* and *khandsari*.

Muhamdi is electrified. It has 2 hospitals, one each for the two sexes, 2 dispensaries, a child welfare and maternity centre, a family planning centre, a cattle pound, a veterinary hospital, an inspection house, a police-station, 5 junior Basic schools, 3 senior Basic schools, 2 higher secondary schools and a branch of the State Bank of India.

The place is also the headquarters of the post-stage II Muhamdi development block which has been functioning since October 2, 1956. The population of the block is 91,196 souls and is spread over an area of 45,640 hectares. The block includes 108 *gaon sabhas* and 12 *nyaya* panchayats.

#### **Munda Buzurg (pargana and tahsil Nighasan)**

Munda Buzurg is situated in Lat.  $28^{\circ} 10'$  N. and Long.  $80^{\circ} 54'$  E., at a distance of 10 km. south of Nighasan and 29 km. north of Lakhimpur. The village is bounded on the south by the Chauka, and a large quantity of rice is grown here. Munda Buzurg appears to be a place of some antiquity; it contains the remains of a small fort in the south and an ancient site in the middle of the village. The place has a population of 845 and an area of 1,949 ha.

The place has a junior Basic school and a family planning centre. It is included in the Ramia Bihar development block and the Jatpurwa *gaon sabha* and *nyaya* panchayat.

#### **Nighasan (pargana and tahsil Nighasan)**

The place which gives its name to the pargana and the tahsil, derives its importance from its selection as the headquarters of a tahsil. It stands in Lat.  $28^{\circ} 14'$  N. and Long.  $80^{\circ} 52'$  E., at a distance of 87 km. north of Lakhimpur.

There is a regular bus service available for it from Lakhimpur. It is bounded on the north-east by the Suheli river in the vicinity of which there is a small terai area with a little rice cultivation. To its west is the Bastia nala, a branch of which cuts through the place close to the tahsil and falls into the Suheli terai. Articles of wood and agricultural implements are manufactured here.

Nighasan is electrified and contains a sugar mill, a rice mill, a temple dedicated to Hanuman, a mosque, a higher secondary school, a junior Basic school, a hospital, a family planning centre, a maternity

and child welfare centre, a veterinary hospital, a police-station and an inspection house. The population of the place is 5,033 and the area 1,661 ha.

It is also the headquarters of the Nighasan post-stage II development block level and was inaugurated on October 2, 1954. The block has a population of 1,12,045 souls, an area of 69,649 hectares, 63 *gaon sabhas* and 9 *nyaya* panchayats.

#### **Oel (pargana Kheri, tahsil Lakhimpur)**

Oel, also known as Oel Dhakwa, is situated in Lat.  $27^{\circ} 50'$  N. and Long.  $80^{\circ} 45'$  E., on the road running from Lakhimpur to Sitapur, about 18 km. south of the former. Parallel to the road runs a line of the north-eastern railway with a station at Oel which is 14 km. distant from Lakhimpur.

Oel became a town area in 1928 and is divided into 4 wards. Its population is 6,155 and its area 1.2 sq. km.

There is a fine temple of Mahadeva to the east of Oel, built by Bakht Singh, a former Chauhan talukdar of the place. It possesses a police outpost of police-station, Kheri, a hospital, a dispensary, an intermediate college, a higher secondary school and a junior Basic school. It is electrified. It is known as a centre for the marketing of metal utensils and agricultural produce. Oel falls in the Behjam development block.

#### **Paila (pargana Paila, tahsil Lakhimpur)**

The village, which gives its name to the pargana, is situated in Lat.  $27^{\circ} 54'$  N. and Long.  $80^{\circ} 36'$  E., at a distance of 24 km. south-west of Lakhimpur.

There is a shrine dedicated to Panchon Pir, a saint in whose honour a fair is held annually in Jyaistha. Paila has a population of 2,274 and an area of 659 ha.

The village falls in the Behjam development block. It is the headquarters of a *gaon sabha* and a *nyaya* panchayat.

The place has a mosque, a junior Basic school, a senior Basic school and a *pathshala*. Markets are held here on Monday and Friday in the local bazar.

#### **Palia (pargana Palia, tahsil Nighasan)**

The place, also known as Palia Kalan, is situated in Lat.  $28^{\circ} 26'$  N. and Long.  $80^{\circ} 35'$  E., on the branch line of the north-eastern railway, running from Mailani to Dudhwa and Sonaripur, at a distance of 80 km. from the Mailani junction. A road leads south-east to Nighasan, covering a distance of 35 km. Palia is also connected by rail with Gola, the distance being 48 km. It is 82 km. distant by rail from the district headquarters.

In 1940, Palia Kalan was made a town area which was upgraded into a municipality on May 1, 1976. Its population is 9,771 and its area ■ sq. km.

After the partition of the country in 1947, most of the displaced persons from Pakistan were rehabilitated here. The land of Palia is fertile. The place is electrified and has a good market of grain and articles of daily use.

The town contains a well-designed and expensively-built cinema house, two junior Basic schools, a senior Basic school, a higher secondary school, a hospital, a family planning centre, a cattle pound, ■ veterinary hospital, a police-station, an inspection house, a branch each of the Allahabad Bank, and the State Bank of India.

There are three temples, a *gurdwara* and a mosque. Recently ■ sugar factory has been established here. Manufacture of wooden articles, trolleys and iron goods are among the local industries of Palia.

Palia is also the headquarters of a post-stage II development block which was inaugurated on October 1, 1961. The block contains an area of 1,11,219 hectares, a population of 72,107 souls, 28 *gaon sabhas* and 4 *nyaya panchayats*.

#### **Pasgawan (pargana Pasgawan, tahsil Muhamdi)**

The place which gives it name to the pargana is situated in Lat.  $27^{\circ} 49'$  N. and Long.  $80^{\circ} 10'$  E., at a distance of 17 km. south of Muhamdi. From Lakhimpur its distance by road is 56 km.

The place had a fort built by Hakim Mahdi Ali Khan, the *nazim*, only a few remains of which now exist.

The village contains 2 junior Basic schools, a senior Basic school, a higher secondary school, ■ health centre, a child welfare and maternity centre, a family planning centre, an allopathic dispensary, a cattle pound, a veterinary hospital, and a police-station. Market days are Monday and Friday. The village has a population of 1,812 which is spread over an area of 838 ha.

Pasgawan is also a post-stage II development block which was opened on October 1, 1959. The block covers an area of 47,515 hectares, has a population of 1,13,986 persons, with 123 *gaon sabhas* and 14 *nyaya panchayats*.

#### **Ramia Bihar (pargana Dhaurahra, tahsil Nighasan)**

A large-sized village, it is situated about 19 km. south-east of Nighasan. The place lies in Lat.  $28^{\circ} 8'$  N. and Long.  $81^{\circ} 2'$  E., 51 km. north-east of Lakhimpur.

•Ramia Bihar is picturesquely located on the banks of an old channel of the Kauriala river which has become silted up to form an extensive lake.

The village has grown considerably in recent years, and now contains a junior Basic school, a maternity and child welfare sub-centre, a hospital, a cattle pound and a veterinary hospital. The population of the place is 3,508 and its area 1,046 ha.

It is also the headquarters of the Ramia Bihar post-stage II development block. It was started on October 1, 1967 and includes in it an area of 60,805 hectares, a population of 94,105 souls, 46 *gaon sabhas* and 8 *nyaya panchayats*.

#### **Sikandarabad (pargana Haidarabad, tahsil Muhamdi)**

The village is situated in Lat.  $27^{\circ} 57'$  N. and Long.  $80^{\circ} 30'$  E., at a distance of 16 km. east of Muhamdi, and 16 km. south of Gola Gokarannath.

Sikandarabad was the capital of a separate pargana until 1869, when it was merged with Haidarabad. The bulk of the village was formerly held by Muhammad Sher Khan, a converted Ahban.

The village is electrified. It contains a junior Basic school, a senior Basic school, an allopathic dispensary, and a child welfare and maternity centre. The place has a population of 2,538 and an area of 521 ha.

A market is held here on every Monday and Tuesday.

Sikandarabad falls in the Kumbhi development block. It is the headquarters of a *gaon sabha* and a *nyaya panchayat*.

#### **Singahi Bhadaura (pargana Khairigarh, tahsil Nighasan)**

Singahi, or Singahi Bhadaura, is situated in Lat.  $28^{\circ} 19'$  N. and Long.  $80^{\circ} 54'$  E., at a distance of about 9 km. north of the tahsil headquarters and 45 km. north of Lakhimpur. The place derives its double name from two detached sites which now form the village-Singahi Kalan and Bhadaura—the latter lying at a short distance to the west of the former. It is administered as a town area. Its population is 9,050 and its area 1.8 sq. km.

It is an important grain market held on Mondays and Tuesdays. The place is electrified. It has 2 junior Basic schools, a senior Basic school, an allopathic hospital, a family planning centre, a maternity and child welfare centre, a police-station and a veterinary hospital.

It is included in the Nighasan development block. It falls in the Bhadaura *gaon sabha*.

#### **Srinagar (pargana Srinagar, tahsil Lakhimpur)**

This village, which gives its name to the pargana, is situated in Lat.  $28^{\circ} 6'$  N. and Long.  $80^{\circ} 47'$  E., at a distance of 18 km. north of Lakhimpur. Srinagar was formerly a much larger place and the

headquarters of the Muslim Bisens. In the thirties of the last century the village was almost wholly destroyed by a flood in the Chauka river.

The place has a population of 2,921 and an area of 962 ha.

The place falls in the Phool Bihar development block and the Phool Bihar *nyaya* panchayat. It is the headquarters of the Srinagar *gaon sabha*.

Srinagar has a senior Basic school, a junior Basic school and a girls' *pathshala*. Markets are held here on every Thursday and Saturday.



## CONVERSION FACTORS

### **Money :**

1 pie = 0.52 paisa  
1 piec = 1.56 paise

### **Linear Measure :**

1 inch = 2.54 centimetres  
1 foot = 30.48 centimetres  
1 yard = 91.44 centimetres  
1 mile = 1.61 kilometres

### **Square Measure :**

1 square foot = 0.093 square metre  
1 square yard = 0.836 square metre  
1 square mile = 2.59 square kilometres = 259 hectares  
1 acre = 0.405 hectare

### **Cubic Measure :**

1 cubic foot = 0.028 cubic metre

### **Measure of Capacity :**

1 gallon (Imperial) = 4.55 litres  
1 seer\* (80 tolas) = 0.937 litre

### **Measure of Weight :**

1 tola = 11.66 grams  
1 chatak = 58.32 grams  
1 seer\* = 983.10 grams  
1 Maund\* = 37.32 kilograms  
1 Ounce (Avoirdupois) = 28.35 grams  
1 pound (Avoirdupois) = 453.59 grams  
1 hundred weight = 50.80 kilograms  
1 ton = 1,016.05 kilograms = 1.016 metric tonnes

### **Thermometer Scales :**

1° Fahrenheit = 9/5° centigrade + 32

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\*As defined in Indian Standards of Weight Act, 1939



## GLOSSARY OF INDIAN WORDS

<i>Amin</i>	...Petty officials, attached to court of justice and entrusted with work of realising government dues
<i>Amil</i>	...A collector of revenue under the nawabs of Avadh
<i>Asami</i>	...A landholder or a non-proprietary cultivator having no transferable rights
<i>Bhajan</i>	.. Devotional song
<i>Bhoodan</i>	...Land given in donation
<i>Bhumidhar</i>	...A peasant proprietor having permanent heritable and transferable rights on his holdings
<i>Chakla</i>	...A revenue subdivision or sircar comprising several parganas
<i>Chakladar</i>	.. Superintendent of a <i>chakla</i>
<i>Chandu</i>	...Preparation of opium smoked as an intoxicant
<i>Churidar</i>	...Tight fitting (pyjama)
<i>Dai</i>	...Midwife, other than diploma holder
<i>Dam</i>	...Under Akbar, a copper coin, worth about 1/40th of a rupee
<i>Dhoti</i>	...Sari or a piece of cloth worn by men round the waist
<i>Dupatta</i>	...Scarf worn by women
<i>Fasli</i>	...Agricultural year beginning from July 1
<i>Garara</i>	...Loose trouser worn by women
<i>Gur</i>	...Jaggery
<i>Gurdwara</i>	...The place of worship for Sikhs
<i>Hat</i>	...A village market
<i>Kankar</i>	...A coarse kind of limestone found in the soil
<i>Katha</i>	...A religious discourse of Hindus

<i>Kavismelan</i>	...Symposium of poets (Hindi)
<i>Khalsa</i>	...Land reserved for direct management by or belonging to government
<i>Khair</i>	...A kind of tree ( <i>Acacia catechu</i> )
<i>Khandsari</i>	...Unrefined sugar
<i>Khudkash</i>	...Cultivation of land by owner himself or through hired labour
<i>Kirana</i>	...General merchandise
<i>Kisan diwas</i>	...Farmer's day
<i>Kurta</i>	...Loose collarless shirt worn by men
<i>Lekhpal</i>	.. Petty revenue officials (formerly designated <i>Pakwari</i> ) who keeps village records and collects agricultural tributes
<i>Lingam</i>	.. Phallus
<i>Madek</i>	...A drug prepared from opium and betel-leaf and smoked by its users
<i>Mahal</i>	...Unit of land under separate engagement for payment of revenue
<i>Majlis</i>	...A religious assembly of Shia Muslims to commemorate the death of Imam Husain and his followers
<i>Maktab</i>	.. A school for Muslim children
<i>Mela</i>	.. Fair
<i>Moanj</i>	...A strong sort of grass used for ropes
<i>Mujtahid</i>	.. A Shia theologian
<i>Naiib</i>	.. Deputy, assistant
<i>Nazim</i>	.. Head of district with revenue, executive and judicial powers under mawls
<i>Niwar</i>	.. Thick, wide, cotton tape
<i>Palki</i>	.. Palanquin
<i>Pothskola</i>	.. School

<i>Pattidari</i>	...Leave
<i>Patwari</i>	...Same as <i>Lekhpal</i>
<i>Roti</i>	...Chapati
<i>Shalwar</i>	...Pyjama, narrow at the ankle
<i>Sherwani</i>	...Ackkan
<i>Sindurdan</i>	...A ceremony- Putting of vermillion on the bride's head by the bridegroom
<i>Sjr</i>	...Land cultivated by the proprietor himself
<i>Sirdar</i>	...A landholder having no transferable rights in the land holding
<i>Sreantantrata Divas</i>	...Independence Day
<i>Tazia</i>	...A representation or model of the tombs of Hasan and Husain, generally made of coloured paper and bamboo
<i>Tika</i>	...Betrothal
<i>Tirthankara</i>	...In Jainism, expounder of religion, deified hero or saint
<i>Urs</i>	...A fair held in honour of a Mohammadan saint
<i>Vaid</i>	...Practitioner of Ayurvedic system of medicine



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